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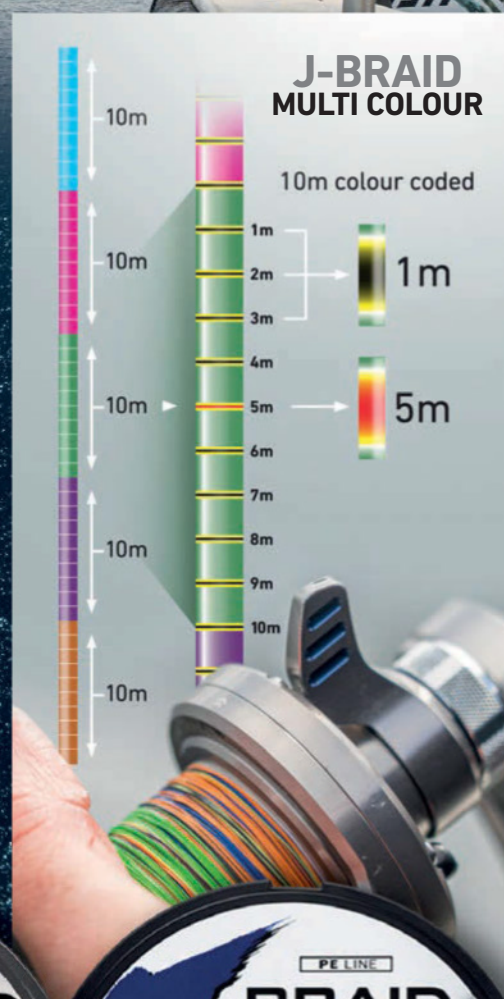


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WELCOME

ISSUE 628 NOVEMBER 2023



Last time I checked there were in the order of 400 angling charter boats operating across the UK, although this number could now be considerably lower since the ravages of Covid and spiralling costs may have forced many to earning a living elsewhere. This is a far cry from the heyday of the 1970s to 1990s when you could have comfortably tripled that number. The early days of the wreck fishing revolution helped with the boom, as did more fish, lower costs and far fewer anglers with their own boats. These days a charter boat is one that exclusively takes anglers out for recreational fishing trips, but the lines were blurred in decades gone by and many skippers of licenced commercial boats would take paying anglers out to fish from the boat – effectively working as crew for the skipper with the fish being sold at market.

Thankfully we are blessed with some fantastic boats and skippers in the UK who work tirelessly to provide their customers with a great day's fishing. It's not an easy way to make a living but those who are good at it have customers that may have fished with them for decades. If you've never taken a charter trip I strongly urge you to do so. It's a good excuse to get a bunch of mates together for the day and try something new, or a style of fishing that isn't otherwise available to you. Booking a space for yourself and joining a group of other anglers is often an option too. You're bound to meet some interesting characters, learn a thing or two over the course of the day and, with any luck, have a few nice fish to take home for the table too.

Before booking the trip make sure you read Dave Lewis' dozen dos and don'ts of booking a charter trip. With advice from some of the

country's most experienced skippers it's a must-read feature to make sure you have the best day possible; after all, it's not cheap. You can read the feature starting on page 28.

Another incredibly helpful feature for you this month comes from Mike Thrussell who explains how to fish from any deck position on a charter boat. With up to 10 anglers on a boat, knowing how to get the best chance of catching from anywhere you find yourself gives you a huge advantage. Fishing from the side up by the cabin can feel like you've drawn the short straw but not if you know how to turn it into the hotseat. Follow Mike's advice starting on page 18 and you'll be winning in any position!

Following on from last month's feature 'The Secret Life of Ragworm' on the relationship between ragworms and flounder, Dr Roger Munro is back this month with more evidence from 35 years of meticulously recording his fishing sessions to provide an answer to the age-old question: Does wild bait out fish farmed bait? Dr Munro's results might surprise you. Read the feature starting on page 14 and decide for yourself.

Don't miss another chance to win a new 30lb PENN Warfare boat combo worth £150. The competition is free to enter. Head to page 78 for more details. Good luck.

Finally, don't miss our fantastic Christmas subscription offer. It's the perfect gift to give or receive with a new issue dropping through the letterbox every four weeks! Get 13 issues of Sea Angler for just £37.99 and never miss an issue. Full details on how to take advantage of this great offer can be found on page 31.

Until next month
David

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ISSUE 628 NOVEMBER 2023

ON SALE OCTOBER 13TH - NOVEMBER 9TH

SHORE ANGLER

6 A KNIGHT'S TALE

Sea Angler talks to Vince Knight to find out more about paid for guided shore fishing.

14 THE GREAT BAIT DEBATE

Finally, an answer to the question: Does wild bait out fish farmed?

44 TIDE TALK

Check out our guide to the best tides and top tactics for shore fishing and uptiding for cod this November.

46 TALES FROM THE TIDELINE

Simon Smith's mind turns to the fishing opportunities autumn brings with it.

WHERE TO FISH

11 GYNN WALL

Some love it, others hate it. Here's how to fish this Lancashire mark near Blackpool.

26 SCABBACOMBE HEAD

Mike Millman takes us on a tour of one of his top-rated south west shore venues.

SEA SCHOOL

60 Q&A

Seven pages of your catch conundrums solved by our team of resident shore, boat, lure and LRF experts.

67 AN EDUCATION IN LUBRICATION

John Holden explains how to keep your multiplier performing as well as it possibly can.

68 KNOT KNOWLEDGE

This month we show you how to tie legendary Florida fishing guide Steve Huff's Double 8 Loop knot.

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[@TheSeaAngler](https://twitter.com/TheSeaAngler)

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YOUR CATCHES

34 YOUNG RODS

Youngsters showing how it's done – the best of our junior readers' catches

36 MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Your best specimen catches from boat and shore over the last month, including last month's prize winners.

BOAT ANGLER

18 FISHING OUT OF POSITION

Mike Thrussell explains how to win whatever boat position you fish from.

28 BOOKING A CHARTER TRIP?

Don't miss Dave Lewis' essential dozen dos and don'ts for success.

48 BASS AT 50

As it celebrates its golden anniversary, we look back at half a century of the Bass Anglers' Sportfishing Society.

50 RECORD BREAMS

Angling historian, Mike Millman, looks at the British records of the nine varieties of sea bream in UK waters.

54 BEST OF THE BOAT SHOW

Tim Macpherson reports back with the best new boats for sea anglers at this year's Southampton Boat Show.

56 SPECIES HUNTER

Dave Lewis explains how to put one of the UK's rarest catches on your species list, the blue skate.



SUBSCRIBE TODAY
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SEE PAGE 31

TACKLE

70 FIRST LOOK

The latest gear to tickle your tackle-buying tastebuds this month including the Century's new Eliminator boat rods.

72 MAGIC BULLETS

Liam Gunn takes a look at some new products by Seadra and sees whether their new Aqua-Bullet casting jigs hit the target for UK lure fishing.

74 SO SOLID CREW

Bristol Channel skipper Dave Roberts gives his verdict on the new range of solid carbon boat rods from PENN.

75 CULTURE CLUB

Chris Kennedy has been testing Vass' new Culture hoody – here's his expert opinion on how it performs.

76 A TITAN AMONGST SMOCKS

As the temperature drops and smock season approaches Joe Whyte tests the new 3.0 EXEAT model from Titan.

78 COMPETITION

Don't miss the chance to win a fantastic PENN Warfare boat fishing combo worth £149.99.

80 THE BIG INTERVIEW: THE FISH LOCKER

Tim Macpherson talks to John Locker (AKA The Fish Locker) to find out more about him, his life and his passion for angling.

MATCH ANGLER

82 PENN SEA LEAGUE

Check out the latest leader board and this month's winner from the UK's biggest and best shore match fishing league.

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GUIDING KN

Want to take your shore fishing to the next level? Maybe a guided session is what you are looking for. David Mitchell accompanied Specialist Fishing Guide's Vince Knight to find out more about paid for guided shore fishing

It can take years to learn how to fish a new location effectively. Friendly advice from locals, joining a club and using your 'watercraft' skills will all help to accelerate your progress but at the end of the day, boots on the beach and trial and error is what counts.

This is the situation I found myself in when I moved to the north Kent coast in 2013. With very few other shore anglers to be found I spent countless hours researching the shore at low water, fishing different tides, different times, different tactics and recording it all on a spreadsheet in the hope of figuring out how to consistently get results at my chosen marks. To be honest, after hundreds of hours of fishing with very little to show for it, I gave

up and my interest went elsewhere. How I wish there had been the opportunity at the time to call on a professional, such as Vince Knight who runs Specialist Fishing Guiding services and takes clients out fishing on the very same beaches on which I used to blank with such spirit crushing consistency!

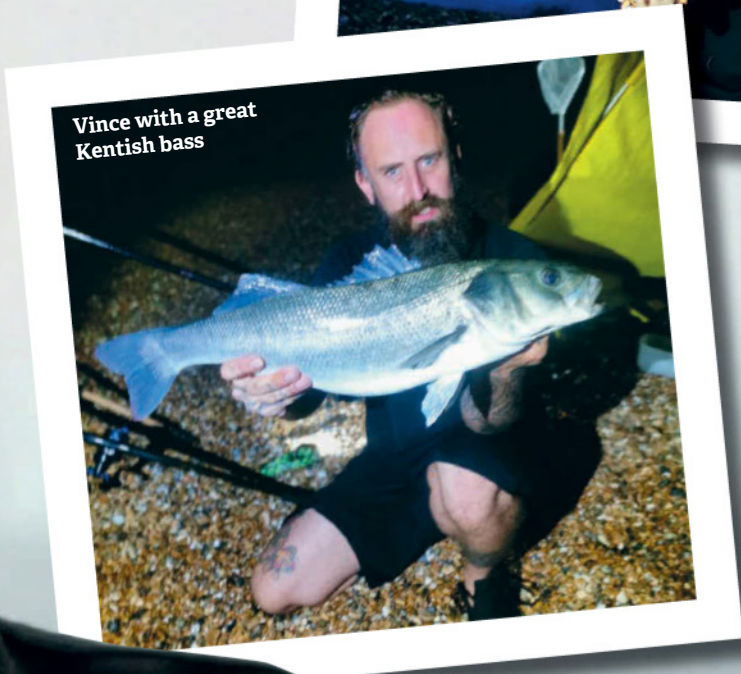
Maidstone-based Vince is one of a small number of UK anglers who have set themselves up as professional guides taking clients out on paid for trips. The 37-year-old former auto electrician set himself up as a pro guide in 2021 and now uses his vast experience to guide clients around much of the south east and south coasts of England. Sea Angler accompanied him on a shore session in Kent to find out more about him and the benefits of paying for the services of a professional sea angling guide. ►



IGHT



A nice South Coast spotted ray



Vince with a great Kentish bass

SA: How did you get into guiding to begin with?

VK: There are one or two others that I know of around the country and having the passion that I do for fishing, and the knowledge that I've gained from fishing as often as I do, I believed I could make a career of it. That's because fishing is the only thing that keeps me sane. In that respect I knew that I could help myself at the same time as helping others. Plus, as the saying goes, if you love your job you never work a day in your life!

SA: Who's your typical customer?

VK: There is no 'typical' customer. The age range varies from people in their twenties to their sixties. The skills range from beginner to people with 30-40 years of experience. I have worked with people from the local area, London and as far away as New Zealand. Often people are only available to go fishing at weekends because of work commitments. That in itself is sometimes a problem as the conditions or tides may not be ideal for a variety of reasons. All of the people I have met so far have been keen to improve their chances of catching within the limited time they have and hopefully get a PB. They are now just a little bit more aware of what to lookout for and how to make the most of their opportunities. If they are a bit more clued up about how to get the best of their opportunities, then I have achieved my goal.



Vince fishes right along the South coast from Kent to Dorset



A bream just shy of 3lb for one very happy client

SA: What is it that your clients are looking for from your guiding services?

VK: It depends. I have one client who moved to Whitstable and fishes at night but has never done very well. He found me on Facebook and got in touch. He knew I fished Whitstable a lot and has seen some of the catches I had posted on social media and asked if I could help him be more productive from Whitstable like I am. On the other hand, I have another client who started sea fishing. All he wanted was to know how to be a better angler in terms of tactics, rigs and conditions. He knew nothing about sea fishing. I took him to Brighton and we had nine species in one session – only one of which he had caught before. That's what he needed to know and I was delighted to have helped him achieve that. ►

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SA: How often do you fish for yourself?

VK: I've spent the last 30 years fishing five or six days a week, despite having fulltime jobs for much of this period. That's why clients are happy to pay money to go out with me. But for the last six or seven years all I have done is fish solidly.

SA: What's your favourite type of fishing and why?

VK: I get the most satisfaction from specimen fishing: targeting a big fish from a chosen species. Last year I had been targeting plaice solidly for weeks. All I wanted was one monster plaice. Finally, one night I ended up with a 58cm 4lb 7oz plaice from Brighton beach. It was incredible. The year before I had been targeting smoothhounds. I'd had plenty of doubles with up to 15 fish in a session. However, I wanted a real specimen. Finally, after night after night, I ended up with a 16lb 8oz hound and remains my personal best hound from the shore.

SA: Why do you think there aren't more pro sea fishing guides in the UK?

VK: There are a few reasons. Firstly, we don't have big game fishing. Everyone can go out and catch bass, plaice and hounds without any help and most people are happy with a day on the beach with a few fish thrown in. Then there are those who want more but don't know how to take their fishing to the next level. That's where I come in.

There's also a lot of hate from people on social media towards people who set themselves up as guides. I don't know if it's bitterness, jealousy or resentment but it puts a lot of people off from putting themselves out there or trying to make a name for themselves within the fishing world. It put me off and still gets to me from time to time.



SA: How much do you charge for different sessions and how does it work?

VK: You can bring three other people when you come out with me. Any more than that and it becomes too awkward to get everyone involved. I do all of Kent, Sussex, the South Coast and Chesil Beach. A north Kent session, for example, would include a whole day, 10-12 hours, which would include, if you wanted to, where and how to collect fresh bait. For that I charge £150. Alternatively, if you just wanted to do the bait collecting I can do that with you too for an agreed price. If you wanted to fish Chesil Beach I charge £250 for a 12 hour session because of my costs, including insurance. I wouldn't claim to be a Chesil expert but I have fished it an awful lot over many years and know how to successfully catch fish there.

SA: Are you sponsored by anyone?

VK: Sakuma have been very generous with providing me with products and I only use their hooks. I'm also very fortunate and grateful to Veteran's Bait Supplies for providing me with bait. Century are always very helpful too with excellent advice and a good repair service.

SA: How did you set yourself up as a guide?

VK: I'm fully insured but the 'coaching' qualifications don't serve any purpose for me. Guiding is different to coaching. My job is to do my best to put clients onto the fish that they want to catch, not to teach them how to fish, most of whom already know the basics of fishing. Some kind of network to bring together the sea angling guides in the UK would be really helpful so that we could communicate with each other.

SA: What advice would you give anyone considering setting themselves up as a guide in their part of the country?

VK: Don't listen to the nonsense that will inevitably come at you from people on Facebook. As soon as you set yourself up people will have a pop at you. More importantly, make sure you have the knowledge, experience and skills to help people. It's easy to think you could guide people because you caught one good fish once, but you need to have a strong back catalogue of quality fish and to be able to explain to people why things work when they work, such as: tides, pressure, water temperatures. You need to have a good grasp of all this information and be able to explain it in simple terms. Know what you are talking about. Don't try and con anyone!

SA: What's the single most useful piece of advice you would give Sea Angler readers to help them improve their shore fishing skills?

VK: Understand the fish. For example, spend half an hour at home reading up on why air pressure and changes in air pressure affect fish. Read up on what else affects fish, and spend time understanding fish behaviour and the environment they live in. Once you've got a better understanding of what affects when, where and why fish feed you'll be in a position to make much better choices about how when and where to dedicate your time and achieve better success.

SA: What are the biggest mistakes people make when fishing a new area or a new venue?

VK: Without doubt, the single biggest mistake anglers make fishing a new venue is doing the same thing they did at the last venue. Many anglers use the same bait, the same rigs and the same tactics everywhere they go. Usually a two-hook flapper, cast 80 yards with the rods sat high in the tripod, over and over again. I know anglers who have said to me, "I've never caught a bass in 40 years of fishing the Kent coast". How can you not catch a bass on the Kent coast if you understand or have even a little bit of knowledge about when, where and how bass feed? There are five or six rigs I use consistently. I don't think you need any more than that. Tackle shops tend to sell people two or three hook flappers because they are easy to use and will usually catch you something – usually whiting and dogfish – which many anglers might be happy with but if you want to put a bend in your rod or catch an interesting fish you need to change your tactics and think about what's required for the fish and conditions in front of you – that's where I come in. The other big mistake is not talking to locals. Wherever you go, find a local angler and get chatting to them. Nothing beats local knowledge.

Find out more about Vince and Specialist Fishing Guide at www.facebook.com/AnglingGuide



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A MARMITE

With a reputation for being hit and miss Gynn Wall divides opinion. However, it can produce great results. Ken Forrest explains how to maximise your chances of success at the Miners' Home section

No other venue on the Fylde coast divides opinion more than the Gynn Wall. It has as many haters as those who love it. What is undeniable is that it offers easy access and is suitable for any age and ability to fish it. Any fish that can be caught locally will, at some stage, be caught on the wall. The section we are focusing on here, the Miners' Home stretch, is just over half way along and tends to be a bit less crowded. The ground, tactics, baits and access are the same as any other part of the wall.

SPECIES

Winter sees whiting, dabs, rockling, codling and flounder. Plaice, dogfish, bass and thornback rays and the odd turbot and sole start to get caught in spring before smoothhound, gurnard, weever and tope pups move in as summer progresses. Autumn sees pin whiting move in followed by



MARK...



lots of dogfish and a few huss after an autumn gale. When the sea drops off can be good for dabs.

Over the years the species have altered: we do not get the big bags of flounder in the spring but the number of Dover sole and small turbot is much higher and these can now be realistically targeted. The same goes for smoothhound and thornback rays. While there are lots of small fish on the Gynn there is always the possibility of a double figure huss, thornback or smoothhound.

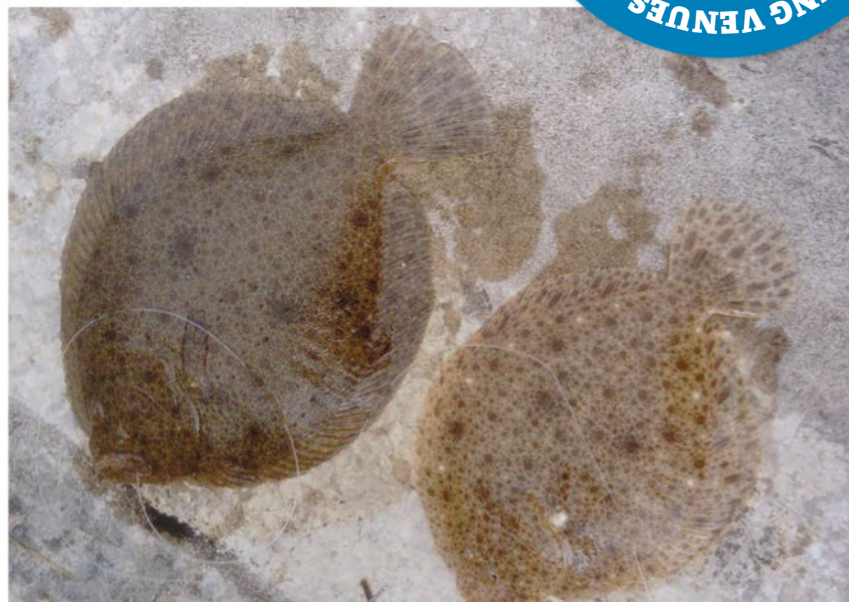
TACKLE AND BAIT

Depending on the season and type of fish targeted you can manage with a light spinning rod up to a powerfull beach caster. If I had to narrow it down to three rods it would be a spinning rod capable of casting up to two ounces; this would be for fishing close in under the wall. Next would be a 2 - 4oz bass rod for medium casts. Finally, a good continental type rod or conventional 6 - 8oz beach rod for distance and targeting the larger species.

Bait options are wide-ranging from crab for the bass, cod, flounder and smoothhound to squid and fish baits for the whiting, dogs, huss, thornbacks, rays and tope pups. Ragworm and black lug will take most species including all the flatfish, although the small turbot prefer it to be tipped with fish.

TACTICS

The ground at the venue is sand with an odd pebbly patch with gullies and sandbanks running parallel to the wall. Try to position yourself so



you can fish these gullies, be they at the bottom of the wall or at distance. Areas of wet sand are worth targeting as they are slightly deeper than the surrounding areas and hold a few fish. Mostly you can start fishing two and a half hours before high tide and the same back; however, it does depend on the size of the tide. Medium to big tides fish best. In the autumn and winter night tides have the edge.

Fishing under the wall with two hook traces with crab or worm or small fish baits will get you

all the flatfish plus eels, bass, weevers and pin whiting. Bass can be caught early in the tide by casting into the broken water on the banks. For the larger species a one hook paternoster rig or up-and-over rig will serve you well. There can be a bit of tide run on big tides but 6oz of lead should be enough. Floating weed can be a problem after gales or heavy rain. ■

NEED TO KNOW

The Gynn Wall starts at Gynn Square in Blackpool and runs to Red Bank Road in Bispham. This is the area you can get a permit to drive your car and park up to fish.



The Miners' Home stretch is easy to find. From the prom at Blackpool head north to Cleveleys. Park in Norfolk Avenue next to the Old Miners' Convalescent Home (FY2 9QA). Cross the prom and tram track, walk down the slope and the mark is a five minute walk.

The nearest tackle shops are:
Bispham Angling
 7 Red Bank Road, FY2 9HN
 Tel: 01253 358194
Blackpool Angling
 328 - 330 Church Street,
 Blackpool, FY1 9HR
 Tel: 01253 283456





THE GREAT BAIT DEBATE

Dr Roger Munro uses 35 years of meticulous catch records to provide an answer to the question: Are wild worms more effective at catching fish than farmed worms?

Seasoned anglers occasionally blank despite adopting all the tactics they can muster during a disappointing and frustrating session. Making their way wearily back home they rack their brains to fathom out what they could have done to improve their chances of catching a fish. One issue which crops up time after time is whether the bait they used – particularly worm bait – was as good as it could have been, not least in relation to the long-debated question of whether farmed worms are more effective than the wild worms they dig for themselves.

In an attempt to answer this question, I searched all the data I recorded over the last 35 years of fishing. Fortunately, this data includes the species of fish caught, the venue, type of bait and in the case of worm bait, whether it was farmed or collected from the wild. During this span of 35 years the number of sessions when farmed worm was used equated to an equal number of sessions when wild worm was the bait of choice.

Venues included beaches, estuaries, piers, marinas and rock marks right across South Wales, from Swansea foreshore to Sker Point, Morfa to Milford Haven and Cardiff Bay to

Do fish care if it's farmed or wild?



Dragon Baits in operation at Port Talbot

Cefn Sidan. Wild maddies were dug from beds in the Loughor estuary, lugworm from Swansea foreshore and king ragworm from beds in Dale, Pembrokeshire. Farmed worm was obtained from Dragon Baits based in Port Talbot.

The availability of farmed bait is an important part of the business for the tackle trade. Currently, demand for bait greatly outweighs supply, particularly at times of the year when weather and tide conditions make bait collection difficult, wild stocks are at naturally low levels, and demand for certain target species of fish is high. This demand is met, in part, by farmed bait in the UK comprised mainly of king ragworm and harbour ragworm, also known as maddies in Wales. However, because of their more complicated life cycle lugworm have to be dredged on a large-scale commercial basis.

Established in 1995, Dragon Baits are the largest grower and supplier of farmed worm bait in the UK. It is comprised of 25 outdoor tanks 130m in length and 10m wide. Within the tank structure is a one-piece liner which holds sand and salt water which is pumped directly from the sea to cover the area where the worms are kept. Water is oxygenated to keep the worms alive and in good condition. The tanks provide the worms with their food but to complement this, and to gain the extra growth that is needed, pellets similar to the ones used in fish farms are fed to the worms.

Millions of ragworms are produced to supply the fishing industry. Fertilisation occurs once a year during the spring period, which takes place naturally on the farm to produce its stock for the coming year. Harvesting of the worms is performed on a daily basis so that supply is constant and regular. Worms are transported to retail outlets under conditions which maintain their quality. Dredged lugworms are transported weekly from Holland.

Pellets are fed to farmed worms to supplement their diet



Many anglers swear wild beats farmed bait



Beautiful freshly dug wild ragworm



THE UK WORM MARKET

It is estimated that sea angling activity in the UK currently uses in excess of 1,000 tonnes of bait worms per year. Surveys indicate that over 700 tonnes of bait worms are dug for personal use. An estimated 50 per cent of worm bait sold in shops are farmed and 50 per cent are dug.

WILD WORMS

Cons:

- Disturbing sensitive intertidal habitats and species
- Disturbing overwintering and protected birds
- Depletion of local worm populations
- Availability due to tides and demand

Pros:

- Often local
- Free if you dig your own
- Guaranteed freshness if you dig your own

FARMED WORMS

Cons:

- Cost (although still comparable to professionally dug wild worms)
- Availability -- weather conditions can impact the number of worms ready to be harvested and the supply to the tackle shops

Pros:

- Availability -- farmed worms are available when tides, weather and other factors prevent wild bait diggers from getting out
- Consistent size, quality and freshness of worms
- Lower environmental impact: no wild habitat or species disturbance

SURPRISE RESULTS

What I discovered from analysing my results was that no significant difference between farmed and wild bait was found with any species of fish at any of the venues. In some regards, this is a surprising finding since the majority of anglers believe that wild worm is a more effective bait than farmed worms. The longer the period over which this type of data is collected then the more likely it is that equality is satisfied – that is the factors and circumstances involved in the assessment become more even.

The farmed king ragworm has been nurtured from an original stock gathered from Dale in Pembrokeshire and the harbour ragworm nurtured from worms originating from the Loughor estuary between Swansea and Carmarthenshire. In biological terms therefore, there is no difference in the DNA of the king ragworm and harbour ragworm from Dragon Baits and those dug in the wild. The main difference is that the farmed worms are fed on pellets as well as the ecosystem of the tanks in which they are grown. There are other suppliers of farmed worm in the UK, some of which is imported, the effectiveness of which has not been assessed here. It must be taken into account that the data presented here is derived from farmed worms obtained directly from Dragon Baits.

This could explain why there is such a good comparison here between the catches achieved with farmed and wild bait. This long held belief amongst anglers that wild worm

is a more effective bait than farmed worm has been held by many throughout their angling careers. Fishing is all about confidence and it's important that the angler has confidence in the bait they use. This confidence is enhanced by the angler's belief that they have stored the wild worm in exactly the way that they believe is most appropriate and that it has not been "corrupted" in any way.

The results presented here are mine only and it's perfectly possible that they may well vary with the findings of others. This would make an interesting comparison; however, how many other anglers have collected the same level of data on their fishing activity, including bait used and whether it was farmed or wild, over a 35-year period? My results may not be conclusive but I'm not aware of any better evidence that exists to help answer this question. Based on what I've discovered my advice would be not to worry if it is farmed or not. 35 years of meticulous recording of my fishing tells me it makes no difference to catches.

However, as responsible, individual anglers we all prioritise the issues which we believe are most important to us. The quality and effectiveness of the bait we use is paramount, as indeed is the environmental impact of bait digging. We all have constraints in relation to time and money which impact on our ability to dig bait for ourselves, or alternatively to purchase the farmed variety. If the question of whether your bait is farmed or not isn't impacting your catch success then perhaps you should consider the other pros and cons of farmed versus wild bait. ■

“This long held belief amongst anglers that wild worm is a more effective bait than farmed worm has been held by many throughout their angling careers”

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FISHING OUT OF POSITION

The deck position you fish on a charter boat is a game of chance and can make a massive difference to your results. Mike Thrussell explains how to make the most of wherever you end up on the day

Usually, where you fish aboard a charter boat is a free for all on a first come, first served basis. Some boat skippers, though, employ a round-robin system. It's less common, but you move deck position every hour or so; this determined by the number of anglers and the amount of time likely to be fished, divided equally. This equalises opportunities as best the skipper can, though some angler groups choose to do this themselves anyway.

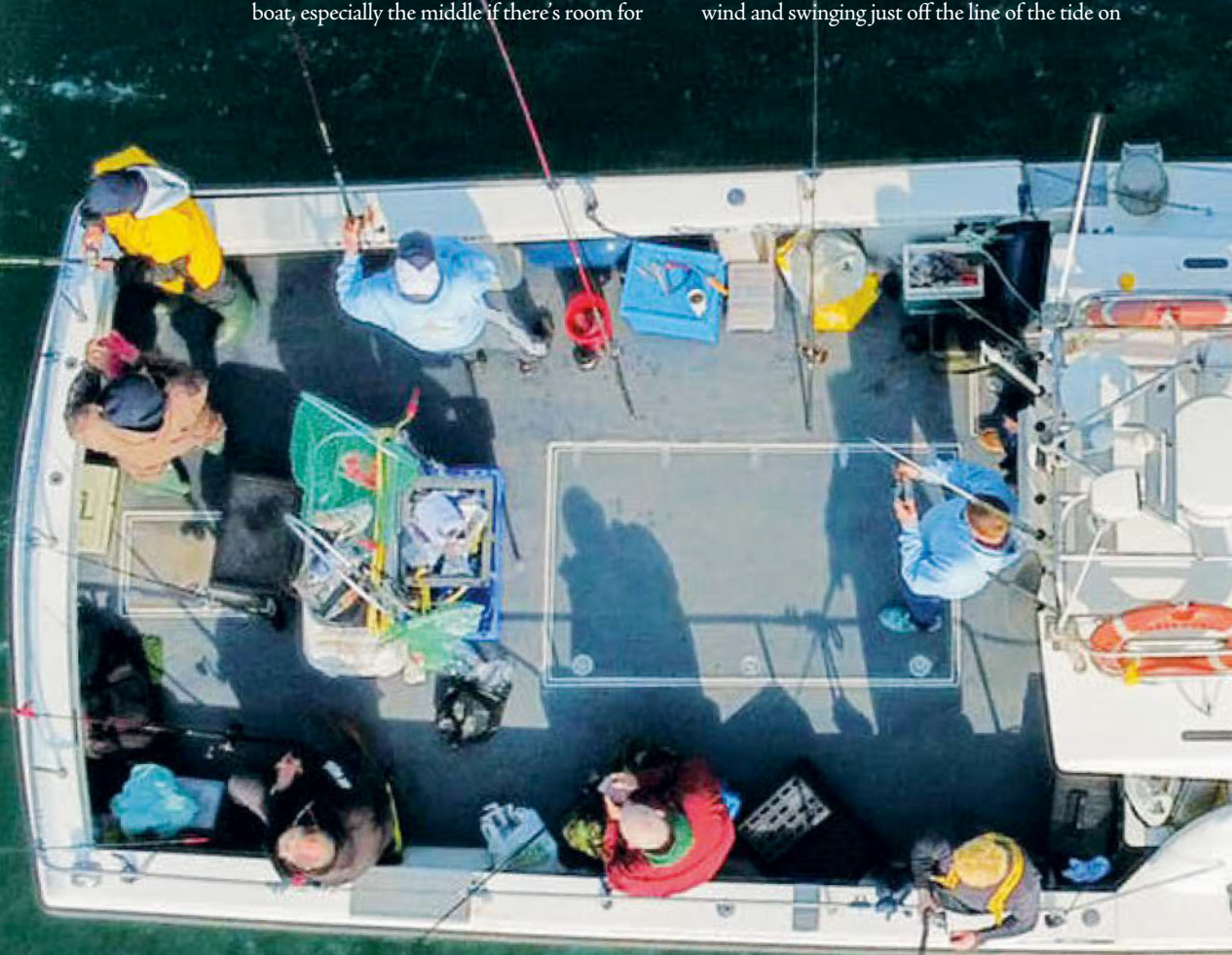
There is no guarantee then where you'll be fishing, so you need to have the versatility to instantly adapt to any deck placing and fish it to its maximum. In football, players capable of playing out of position are one of the most valued alongside strikers, which proves the point of being able to adapt to any position.

FISHING THE STERN

There's always a clamour for the stern of the boat, especially the middle if there's room for

three anglers across the back, but the stern corners are just as good. There is an obvious advantage to the stern positions.

The main advantage is that, in theory, the fish should find the stern angler's baits first as they follow the scent trail. It's not quite as simple as that though. For example, if you take notice over time, you'll see that one corner of the boat can fish better than the other. This might be an individual angler's ability, but mostly it's nothing more than the boat catching the surface wind and swinging just off the line of the tide on



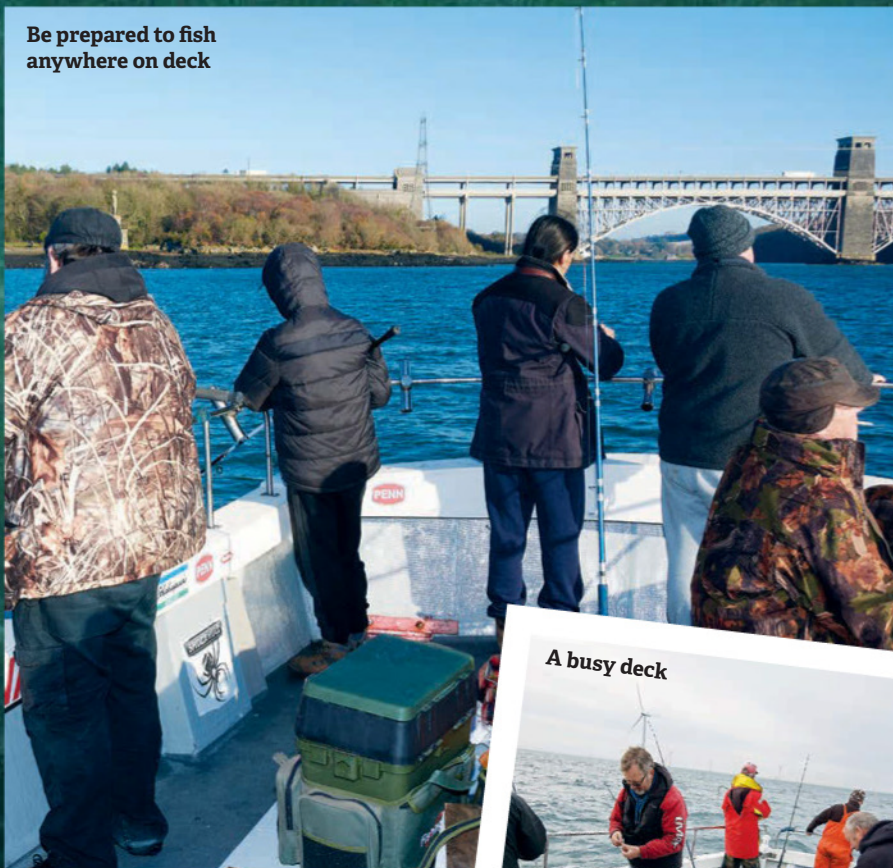
the anchor rope. This can see the baits on one side of the boat still in the scent trail, but those on the opposite side of the boat just outside it. This is often why one side of the boat fishes best.

Anglers on the stern should also be using lighter lead weights than those fishing mid gunnel and by the cabin. Good skippers will tell you to do this purely based on reducing tangles. But you need to milk this option yourself. Listen to what the skipper says or ask him what size of lead to start with, then see what happens. If the weight goes straight down and stays put on the seabed, this is a sign to change it for a weight 1 to 2oz lighter. Keep changing until you reach a point where the weight is on the seabed, but when you lift the rod tip and lead and let a few feet of free line off, the bait and lead weight trot downtide a few feet until the line comes tight again. This fine balance allows you to work ground well away from the boat, also to target fish way before they reach the other anglers baits.

The other big advantage to using the trot back method is placement of the bait. If you're uptide of a reef or wreck, you can work the bait backwards until you feel you're right on the junction of clean and hard ground and this can be the killer zone for fish.

Having the just heavy enough lead also improves bite detection and hooking ability. A fish only needs to move a few inches and the lead weight comes into play being lifted ►

Be prepared to fish anywhere on deck



A busy deck



off the seabed. This sudden contact with the lifting weight helps to induce a better hook up ratio than an overly heavy static lead will. This is because with a static lead, the fish only comes up against the weight of the lead weight. With a just heavy enough to hold bottom lead, the lead is lifted then the line tightens and the rod top nods. This increases the pressure on the hook hold and sinks the hook deeper.

Standard 7ft to 8ft boat rods are fine off the stern for trotting back. The trot back technique covers a lot of ground so there is no real advantage in using longer tipster type rods and casting away from the boat.

MID GUNNEL POSITIONS

This middle deck placing needs much more thought. If you're fishing straight off the gunnel, the first adjustment is to make sure that you're using a lead weight easily heavy enough to stay on the seabed without drifting back downtide and then tangling with the anglers on the stern. People get annoyed when tangles occur, but mostly, it's because anglers in a mid-boat position are not using a heavy enough lead weight to anchor their bait, or even worse, insist on using mono which catches more tidal pressure and has a habit of billowing out in a bulb shape with stern fished terminal tackle tangling in this when retrieved.

A smoothhound from the stern corner



“People get annoyed when tangles occur, but mostly, it’s because anglers in a mid-boat position are not using a heavy enough lead weight to anchor their bait”

Stern corners are always favoured



Fishing the stern corner



fish out off the boat side and well away from the anglers on the stern. This limits tangles, especially if the stern anglers are polite enough to hold their rods away from your line rather than just leaving them leant against the stern and letting lady luck decide. Tangles can be reduced by working together.

These longer rods are best for casting outside the boat too. You can have the rig on a short drop with the lead weight just above the sea's surface and the bait hung on the grip wires, then simply use the flexible rod tip to flick the weight and bait uptide. This is the safest way to cast, plus some skippers won't allow casting inside the boat for safety reasons. Alternatively, if the skipper agrees, the longer 11ft rods with the baited hook hung on the grip wire leads, the weight on a short drop is well above the heads of other anglers and can simply be lobbed out without coming anywhere near anyone.

FISHING BY THE CABIN

This is the biggest dread for many anglers, but for a minority it's the best seat in the house. Quite common is that cabin bulkheads have storage lockers built into them which provide a seat for those fishing tight to the cabin. This is a major plus point for those of us of a certain age.

Because you're fishing mid boat, your bait will be second in line to that of the anglers on the stern. There's nothing you can do about this, but what you can do is change baits more frequently than the person on the stern. A good guide is every 10 minutes. This keeps a very strong scent trail leeching out of the bait and fish tend to home in on the strongest scent within a scent trail. This can be hard work regularly changing baits but is a big edge!

Alternatively, in shallow water, say up to 70ft deep, you can opt for a longer 10 to 11ft Tipster type rod matched to a 6000 to 8000 sized fixed spool reel with 30lb braid line. This means you can cast away from the boat in an uptide direction, let line spill from the spool until you feel the lead weight hit the bottom and release another 20yds or so of line to create that downtime bow and direct line to the lead that pulls a grip wire lead hard into the seabed like an anchor chain.

Uptiding gives two main advantages. Firstly, your bait is well away from the other anglers' baits and is not competing directly with them. Your scent trail leads to an individual bait, not a whole group of close together baits. This makes it more likely to be found and eaten.

The second is that you can cast slightly different distances dropping the lead in different places and literally explore the ground within your limited casting field. You'll often find little hotspots of broken stone, patches of stone, maybe depressions in the ground where food will collect and having a bait close to these will see an obvious uplift in your catches.

There's also an advantage with the longer 11ft rods. When you're playing a fish and it swings downtide, the extra length of these long rods means you have a better chance of keeping the

Mike with a nice huss



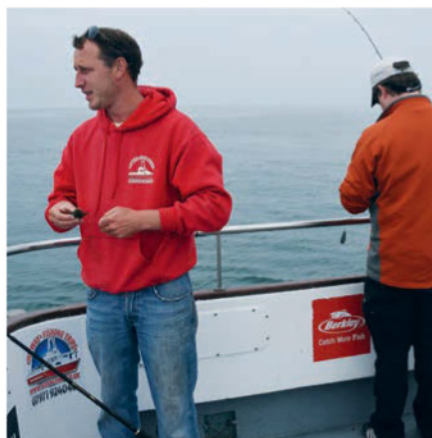
Cod caught uptiding



Being able to sit down and still fish makes life a lot more comfortable.

Fishing wise, there is the option to uptide again using longer rods and casting at an acute angle uptide. Getting that bait well away from the boat and fishing out on its own will catch you fish.

It's no coincidence though, that frequently the best fish of the day comes from a cabin position. One of the reasons for this is that a wise angler used to fishing tight to the cabin will know that he can't compete directly with the anglers fishing down tide of him. By employing a very heavy lead, one that will not be moved one inch by tide pressure on the line, and using a big fresh bait left to ooze scent out over a long period, will bring bigger fish through the maze of lines and baits to home in on a decent mouthful. Cod,



Fishing the stern

huss, conger, tope and rays will all frequently do this. You can increase your chances by noting what baits other anglers are using and going for a cocktail. If everyone is using mackerel, try a mackerel and squid cocktail, or tip the mackerel with bluey. This different scent trail can bring a fish in on the bait.

Another little edge to use in all cases, but especially when fishing tight to the cabin, is to use attractors or rattles. The latter especially, such as the very successful Booby Bead with the internal ball bearings, create a constant noise and vibration as the bait and trace roll in the tide that will focus the mind of a predator and fixate them on that one individual bait while they ignore the others. Providing you have a very heavy lead on and are fishing braid main line, try lifting and dropping the rod tip two or three feet to flutter the bait up and down every minute or so. A moving bait is far more likely to be hit.

The "tap, tap, tap" of the lead hitting the seabed by lifting and dropping the rod tip is another ploy you can use to draw fish into your bait. This works especially well for huss, gurnards, cod and conger.

Attractors need to be used with caution and you must experiment on the day. They sometimes seem capable of catching fish from a teacup, other days they are the kiss of death. Attractors work best in deeper water and in small form of just a couple of luminous green beads well charged with a UV torch. A single 5mm lumo bead is enough to draw a fish's attention. Add too much bling and it can become a deterrent almost frightening fish off or certainly making them wary. Luminous lead weights are worth a try as they give a static target area easily seen at depth, but they can often be too big and will scare fish off. If you're



Fishing by the cabin can be just as good



Fishing the gunnels



Drift fishing from the gunnel

targeting general species such as from the cabin position, try dropping the breaking strain of your hook lengths slightly to give the bait more movement. This releases more scent and adds that all important visual aspect that fish love.

ON THE DRIFT

When drift fishing the anglers on the side of the boat facing the tide can again fish lighter lead weights and let the baits trot well away. At the same time, the anglers on the opposite side of the boat need to use heavy leads and only braided line to keep the baits fishing directly under the boat and well away from tangling the other lines. Some skippers will either have everyone on the side facing the oncoming tide, or the anglers will take it in alternate turns to fish the prime side of the boat for ease. But be prepared with heavy leads so you can adapt to whatever option you're faced with.

And although it's less easy using the heavier lead weights, remember your baits will pass through the fish first as the boat drifts over the ground, so make sure your baits are fresh and fishing tight to the seabed by using leads that are in constant contact with the seabed.

Understanding the different deck positions, having a sound strategy to fish them, plus the right tackle, dramatically reduces that element of chance when competing against other boat anglers. Don't fear a deck position, embrace it and catch your share! ■

“Understanding the different deck positions, having a sound strategy to fish them, plus the right tackle, dramatically reduces that element of chance when competing against other boat anglers”

Smoothhound off the stern caught by trotting back



PENN Fathom LD Lever Drag Multiplier

Offshore fishing is challenging enough with overly-aggressive fish determined to keep anglers at a disadvantage. The PENN® Fathom™ Lever Drag reels take the advantage away from the fish and gives the edge to the angler.



SALE

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE1678	30	235yds/50lb	£259.99	£150.00

PENN Fathom II Multiplier Reels

- Full Metal Body and side plates
- Fast Gear Access Side Plate
- HT-100™ carbon fibre drag washers
- Line Capacity Rings



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE1925	Levelwind 15 LW LH	345m/0.35mm	£249.99	£125.00
PE1971	Star Drag I30 SD P	400m/0.49mm	£229.99	£130.00

Shakespeare Agility Surf Reel

Purpose built for UK beach fishing, Shakespeare's Agility Surf range are designed to handle saltwater use, and are thoroughly tested for reliability. Features a large capacity, distance casting spool, matched with a smooth drag system.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SP3392	70	20lbs/240yds	£67.99	£40.00

SONIK SKS Black Surf Reel

The Sonik SKS8000 Surf reel is a full-sized surf reel which has been designed to meet the requirements of the UK beach angler. The spool design gives smooth long casts and the large handle helps to speed gear and fish back to the beach.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SO0481	8000	220yds/20lb	£49.99	£45.00

FISHEAGLE Expert MKII 2pc Flotation Suit

The latest edition of the best selling Expert 2-piece Flotation suit is state of the art and has been produced and conforms to ISO 12402-5 & 12402-6 regulations. This update has all the functions and quality that you are used too, but with a modern touch and extra safety features. Bib and Brace trousers that are certified as a 50 Newton Buoyancy Aid having been specially designed to elevate the top half of your body when in water.

The suit features a reflective tape for night safety, a stitched-in belt with ITW Nexus buckle and a CE 394 whistle. Made from a light, wind and water-resistant fabric, they provide comfort for any inclement trips day or night as well as safety in the water.

RRP	OUR PRICE	CODE	SIZE
£139.99	£109.99	RE0852	S
		RE0853	M
		RE0854	L
		RE0855	XL
		RE0856	2XL



BEST SELLER

DAIWA Sealine SLOSH Multipliers

The SL20SH and SL30SH are two top drawer performers boasting powerful, high speed gearing. Nicknamed 'SLOsh' by their many fans around UK coastlines, they are excellent for all shore work, uptiding and a variety of down tide boat fishing.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
DW0631	SL20SH	250m/20lbs	£125.00	£95.00
DW0633	SL30SH	300m/20lbs	£125.00	£95.00

MITCHELL Bluewater R Reels

Perfect for newcomers to the sport, youngsters or even anglers who are looking for a quality spare surf fishing reel. The Mitchell Blue Water R Reel offers fantastic quality and performance at an excellent price point.



SALE

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PU5522	8000	370m/0.40mm	£29.99	£20.00
PU5521	9000	290m/0.40mm	£29.99	£20.00

UNIVAX PackDown Tripod

A full 6ft beach tripod which telescopes down to half the size for ease of transportation. This design also allows for low beach quiver work by keeping the front legs short and extending the rear legs or for making a stable set up on rocks by adjusting each leg to suit.



SV17772
RRP: £59.99
£40

stillwater Boat & Shore Polar PVC Wellington Boots & Lining

The rugged PVC construction keeps out the water, while the removable fleece liner keeps the heat in.



ALL SIZES
RRP: £29.99
£19.99

CODE	SIZE
RE0509	6
RE0511	7
RE0512	8
RE0513	9
RE0515	10/10.5
RE0516	11
RE0517	12

BEACHCASTER & SURF RODS

Best Selling Century Rods

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PRICE
CN0181	Graphex Match Beach	13ft 6	125-175g	£555
CN0182	Graphex Supermatch LD Beachcaster	13ft	50-150g	£535
CN0183	Graphex Ultralite ST Beachcaster	13ft	50-125g	£510
CN0394	Fireblade Surf	13ft	4-6oz	£275
CN0180	Tip Tornado Beach	13ft 6	4-7oz	£560
CN0179	Tip Tornado Graphex Sport Beach	13ft 11	4-8oz	£600
CN0078	Kompressor SS Beachcaster	13ft 10	4-7oz	£499

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE OUR HUGE STOCK OF CENTURY RODS, INCLUDING BASS, BOAT & SPINNING RODS!

SONIK Black Shore Rods


Don't be fooled by the stunning cosmetics because under the hood it has a powerful blank that has a power to weight ratio that needs to be experienced first hand, so you really need to get your hands on one of these rods to see for yourself how powerful it really is.



CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SO0244	12ft	4-6oz	2	£79.99	£71.99
SO0245	13ft	4-6oz	2	£89.99	£80.99

DAIWA D Wave Surf Rods

Designed and made by Daiwa these outstanding quality and performance delivers way above the price point. The best starter or combo rod you could possibly ask for.



CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
DW8121	12ft	4-8oz	3	£69.99	£55.00
DW8122	13ft	4-8oz	3	£72.99	£60.00

Leeda ICON FXD Elite Beach Rods


These rods are made from Torayco® carbon with Fuji K Guides and a Fuji reel seat. The grips are made from rubber but have been ergonomically designed to give the best grip and comfort.



CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
LD14565	14ft	100-200g	3	£349.99	£170.00
LD14566	15ft	100-200g	3	£359.99	£180.00

MITCHELL Suprema 3.0 Surf & Beach Rods

The ultra light-weight and slim blank have a fast parabolic action that is combined with a very sensitive tip.




SALE

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PU10110	13ft 9	100g	3	£154.99	£80.00
PU10111	13ft 9	130g	3	£159.99	£85.00
PU10112	13ft 9	180g	3	£164.99	£90.00
PU10113	13ft 9	250g	3	£174.99	£95.00
PU10114	14ft 9	30-110g	3+3	£154.99	£80.00
PU10115	14ft 9	40-130g	3+3	£174.99	£95.00

SONIK Vader XS Shore Rods

An incredible value surf rod that delivers unbeatable performance for the price. The blank is well balanced with a progressive casting action and excellent bite registration.



CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SO0622	13ft	4-6oz	2	£54.99	£49.99
SO0624	15ft	4-7oz	3	£79.99	£71.99

BASS & SPINNING RODS


Leeda Banzai Series Rods

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
TX9029	BZ4	13ft 9	3-5oz	3	£139.99	£100.00
TX9030	BZ4	14ft 9	3-5oz	3	£144.99	£100.00
TX9031	BZ5	13ft 9	4-6oz	3	£144.99	£100.00
TX9032	BZ5	14ft 9	4-6oz	3	£149.99	£100.00
TX9033	BZ6	13ft 9	5-7oz	3	£149.99	£100.00
TX9034	BZ6	14ft 9	5-7oz	3	£154.99	£100.00
TX9036	BZ7	14ft 9	6-8oz	3	£159.99	£120.00

BOAT RODS

PENN Squadron II Boat Rods


This series features a more modern sporting blank with an action designed to achieve high performance in both fishing and casting. Suitable for both spinning and bottom fishing, guides are braid friendly.



CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PE1821	Boat	7ft	20-30lb	2	£69.99	£60
PE1823	Braid	8ft 3	20-30lb	1+1	£79.99	£60

FISHEAGLE Saracen Beachcaster Rods

- Designed to offer unbeatable value for money, ideal for the occasional angler or beginner.
- Suitable for general beach fishing but also capable of fishing in mixed ground and from offshore structures.



FULL CARBON

CODE	LENGTH	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
RE0549	12ft	4-8oz	3	£69.99	£49.99
RE0550	13ft	4-8oz	3	£79.99	£54.99
RE0551	14ft	4-8oz	3	£84.99	£59.99

PENN Tidal Surfcasting Rods


Tidal stands for everything you need for surfcasting: Super strong but lightweight and responsive 30T carbon blanks that are designed to have the best distance properties.



CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PE2301	14ft	50-200g	3	£110.00	
PE2302	14ft	100-225g	3	£139.99	
PE2303	14ft	100-250g	3	£139.99	
PE2304	14ft	100-300g	3	£139.99	

Shakespeare Catch More Fish Spin Kit


The Catch More Fish 2 Spin Kit is ideal for beginners and offers great value for money. The kit includes a 9ft rod with a pre-spooled reel and a tackle box full of terminal items to get you started.



CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP4151	9ft	40-80g	2	£54.99	£40.00

PENN Overseas XT Series


Includes all the different types of rods that a travelling angler can dream off.



CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PE2122	Trolling	7ft	30lb	4	£299.99	£130
PE2124	Jigging	5ft 6	180-400g	4	£299.99	£150
PE2126	Boat	7ft	30-40lb	5	£189.99	£95
PE2127	Boat	7ft	40-50lb	5	£199.99	£100
PE2128	Inshore	8ft	15-40g	5	£199.99	£99
PE2133	Labrax	7ft	10-30g	5	£199.99	£90

PENN Squadron II Surf Rod


Offering exceptional value for money, the PENN Squadron II series features modern sporting blanks actions designed to achieve high performance in both fishing and casting.



CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
PE1809	Surf	12ft	113-170g	2	£70.00

PENN Prevail II Boat Rods


The PENN Prevail Boat rods are a modern range of Saltwater Boat rods, providing a combination of strength, versatility and performance. The original WINN-Grip feels soft but also ensures perfect grip, even when being wet.



CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PE2146	7ft	12-20lb	2	£99.99	£50.00
PE2147	7ft	20-30lb	2	£109.99	£50.00

Shakespeare Excursion Bass Spinning Rods


A custom PU grip enables these rods to be used in whatever conditions are thrown at you, especially on the shoreline. A white blank offers unparalleled bite indication and actions and lengths to cover all in-shore opportunities.



CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SP4201	8ft	Med 8-30g	2	£44.99	£20.00
SP4202	8ft	Heavy 30-60g	2	£44.99	£20.00

Shakespeare Agility 2 Boat Salt Rod Series

These rods feature lightweight, fast actioned, yet powerful blanks designed to maximise bite detection.



SALE

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
SP3940	Boat	7ft	20lb	2	£40.00
SP3941	Boat	7ft	30lb	2	£40.00
SP3945	Boat	7ft	20-30lb	4	£50.00
SP3944	Braid	8ft	20-30lb	2	£50.00

PENN Spinfisher VI Spinning Reels

The PENN Spinfisher VI features IPX5 sealing so whether it gets hit with a wave, or you let it ride in the spray all the way home, you don't have to worry about saltwater getting into the gearbox or drag system. Our HT-100 drag washers are housed in a fully sealed spool to give the stopping power needed for big saltwater fish. A Full Metal Body and sideplate keep the CNC Gear System in precise alignment under heavy loads.



SALE

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
PE1896	2500	235m/0.23mm	£197.99	£90.00
PE1897	3500	330m/0.23mm	£149.99	£100.00
PE1898	4500	390m/0.25mm	£105.00	£105.00
PE1899	5500	390m/0.28mm	£169.99	£115.00
PE1900	6500	355m/0.33mm	£164.99	£125.00
PE1914	7500	450m/0.36mm	£194.99	£130.00
PE1915	8500	415m/0.46mm	£204.99	£150.00
PE1916	9500	320m/0.56mm	£219.99	£150.00
PE1917	10500	395m/0.56mm	£299.99	£200.00

PENN Spinfisher VI Live Liner Spinning Reels

- IPX5 Sealed body and spool design
- CNC Gear™ technology
- Superline Spool



SALE

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
PE1903	2500	235m/0.23mm	£149.99	£75.00
PE1904	4500	390m/0.25mm	£159.99	£125.00
PE1905	6500	355m/0.33mm	£169.99	£130.00
PE1919	8500	415m/0.46mm	£164.99	£120.00

PENN Spinfisher VI Long Cast Spinning Reels

A powerful and high-performance workhorse that has a super sealed IPX5 body and spool design for pivotal saltwater protection and long-lasting use.



SALE

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
PE1901	5500	240m/0.30mm	£204.99	£135.00
PE1902	6500	325m/0.33mm	£219.99	£145.00
PE1918	7500	450m/0.36mm	£229.99	£155.00

PENN Rival Level Wind Multiplier

- Lightweight graphite frame and sideplates
- Auto-engaging gears
- Marine-grade bronze alloy main gear
- Machine cut brass pinion gear
- HT-100™ carbon fiber drag washers



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
PE2059	30 LW LC	30lb/370yds	£129.99	£65.00

FISHEAGLE Fighter 300L Multiplier with Mono

Very strong and reliable ball bearing Level-Wind Multiplier.

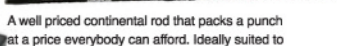
- 3.8:1 Gear Ratio
- Pre-Loaded with mono
- Easily adjustable star drag
- Non-slip handle
- Right hand wind



CODE	CAPACITY	RRP	PRICE
RE0839	20lb/310yds	£34.99	£24.99

IRONZEPH Guerilla Beachcaster Rods

A well priced continental rod that packs a punch at a price everybody can afford. Ideally suited to fishing clean beaches when targeting species such as flounder, whiting, plaice and dogfish.



CODE LENGTH CASTS PCS PRICE

TX7658	13ft 6	150-225g	2	£92.99
TX7656	13ft 7	100-200g	3	£91.99
TX7657	14ft 7	100-200g	3	£97.99

SHIMANO STC Travel Rods

The STC Boat rods are the ultimate sea spinning rods and cater for both shore and boat fishing situations.



CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SU12363	Travel Spin	8ft 2	14-40g	6	£179.99
SU12364	Travel Spin	8ft 2	50-100g	6	£189.99
SU12344	Travel Spin	8ft 10	50-100g	5	£144.99
SU14274	Boat Spin	8ft	100-200g	4	£134.99
SU12365	Shore Boat	9ft 10	150-300g	4+2	£199.99

Shakespeare Agility HRF/LRF Rods

A new concept rod designed to work small lures and jig heads up to 40gms from boats targeting smaller ground dwelling species such as wrasse, small pollack, cod, coalfish, gurnards, bream, plaice, haddock and whiting.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SP3484	6ft 7	0.5-7g	2	£25.00
SP3948	8ft	10-20g	2+2	£30.00
SP3949	8ft 6	20-40g	2+2	£30.00

FISHEAGLE Saracen Mackerel Outfit



- Fisheagle Saracen Mackerel Rod 11ft 1-3oz 2pc
- Fisheagle Q8 Surf Reel loaded with Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet and 10 Assorted Bait Rigs

U117FSH
RRP: £89.97
£39.99

FISHEAGLE Saracen Complete Beach



- Fisheagle Saracen 12ft 2pc Beachcaster Casts 2-4oz
- Fisheagle Q8 8000 Surfcasting Fixed Spool Reel
- Reel is Loaded with 20lb Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet with 10 Popular assorted Ready Tied Bait Beach rigs
- Spool of 40lb Powerstorm VI Vis Shockleader

RE0721
RRP: £98.96
£49.99

FISHEAGLE Saracen Beachcaster Outfit



- Fisheagle Saracen Beachcaster Full Carbon 13ft 4-8oz 3pc Rod
- Shakespeare Agility Surf 70 Reel
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet and 10 Assorted Bait Rigs
- Lureflash Powerstorm Mono filament

U116FSH
RRP: £171.96
£89.99

Shakespeare Omni Rod Series

Shakespeare's Omni Range is ideal for beginners and more experienced anglers alike, these rods maximise performance and quality at a fantastic price.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SP3341	Mackerel	10ft	4-8oz	2	£23.99
SP3994	Surf	10ft	4-6oz	2	£25.00
SP3995	Surf	12ft	4-6oz	2	£35.00
SP3999	Uptide	9ft 6	6-10oz	2	£30.00

Shakespeare Agility Luggage

- Packed with 20 separate resealable wallets, removable thanks to the strong velcro system.
- This practical rucksack sports a waterproof PVC backing, and is designed to be big enough to carry all the gear required, while remaining comfortable to carry.



CODE	MODEL	RRP	NOW
A SP3443	Rig Wallet	£24.99	£15.00
B SP3441	Rucksack	£39.99	£25.00

SAVAGE GEAR Savage Minnow Weedless

With a lively kicking action both on the drop and retrieve, baitfish imitations don't get much more realistic than this. 1 per pack.

COLOUR	10CM 16G	12.5CM 28G
Khaki	SV23637	SV23641
White Pearl Silver	SV23638	SV23642
Blue Pearl Silver	SV23639	SV23643
Lemon Back	SV23640	SV23644
OUR PRICE	£7.25	£9.50



WESTIN Salty Lures

This bestselling Westin lure has it all.

FULL RANGE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE!

COLOUR	7CM / 12G	9CM / 18G	11CM / 26G
Canned Sardine	WN2086	WN2104	WN2122
GFR	WN2088	WN2106	WN2124
Dotted Sardine	WN2089	WN2107	WN2125
Diamond Thief	WN2090	WN2108	WN2126
Pattengrisen	WN2093	WN2111	WN2129
3D Yellow Ayu	WN3177	WN3184	WN3191
3D Brown Headlight	WN3178	WN3185	WN3192
3D Sparkling Herring	WN3179	WN3186	WN3193
UV Hottie Pearl	WN3180	WN3187	WN3194
PRICE	£5.99	£6.50	£6.99

Shakespeare Omni Spinning Rods

The Omni Spinning rods are designed with carbon composite blanks for durability, toughness and a light weight. The diameter of each rod is nice and slim and it is fitted with high quality aluminium oxide guides throughout.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP3227	10ft	30-90g	2	£39.99	£30.00
SP3228	9ft	20-60g	2	£37.99	£27.00
SP3229	8ft	10-30g	2	£35.99	£25.00

RON THOMPSON Mackerel Jig

Superb Sea Fishing lures for Shore, Pier or Boat Fishing, excellent results for Mackerel, Pollock and Bass.

COLOUR	21G	28G	40G	60G
Silver/Blue	SV22057	SV22058	SV22059	SV22060
Silver	SV22061	SV22062	SV22063	SV22064
Silver/Green	SV22065	SV22066	SV22067	SV22068
Red/Black	SV22069	SV22070	SV22071	SV22072
RRP	£1.50	£1.60	£1.70	£1.99
NOW	£1.25	£1.35	£1.45	£1.75

SAVAGE GEAR Sandeel V2 2+1 Pack

This super realistic sandeel imitation will fool even the wariest of predator fish.

COLOUR	12CM 22G	14CM 33G	15.5CM 46G	17.5CM 65G
Green Silver	SV23661	SV23667	SV23673	SV23679
Khaki	SV23662	SV23668	SV23674	SV23680
White Pearl Silver	SV23663	SV23669	SV23675	SV23681
Blue Pearl Silver	SV23664	SV23670	SV23676	SV23682
Lemon Back	SV23665	SV23671	SV23677	SV23683
Pink Pearl Silver	SV23666	SV23672	SV23678	SV23684
PRICE	£8.99	£9.99	£10.99	£11.99

EVEN MORE V2 LURES AVAILABLE ONLINE!

SAVAGE GEAR 3D Line Thru Sandeel Lures



A 3D Scan of a real sandeel, has provided the perfect details and body shape for this great line-thru hard lure!

CODE	LEN	WGT	COLOUR	RRP	NOW
SV20548	85mm	11g	Eel Pout	£8.99	£4.00
SV26488	150mm	27g	Black Silver Green Pearl	£14.99	£4.00
SV26489	150mm	27g	Brown Ghost	£14.99	£4.00

SAVAGE GEAR Gravity Stick Lures 6 per pack.

A slim-profile, long-casting range of soft lures with a high specific gravity. All the lures have a rattle slot in the main body plus an insert weight slot in the tail area to add even more distance to your cast if required.

COLOUR	PULSETAIL	PADDLETAIL	PINTAIL
White	SV22091	SV22095	SV22087
Wakasagi	SV22092	SV22096	SV22088
Khaki	SV22093	SV22097	SV22089
Green Silver UV	SV22094	SV22098	SV22090
High-Vis	SV23757	-	SV23761
Ghost Mixed	SV23758	-	SV23762
PRICE	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50



SAVAGE GEAR 3D Line Thru Sandeel Lures

COLOUR	8.5CM 11G	11CM 15G	12.5CM 19G	15CM 27G
Sandeel	SV19558	SV19016	SV17836	-
Sandeel Ghost	SV19559	SV19017	SV17837	SV17843
Motoroil UV	SV19560	SV19019	SV17841	SV17847
Black & Red UV	SV19561	SV19020	SV19353	-
Black N Yellow Glow	SV19562	SV19354	SV19350	SV19352
Black Ghost	-	-	SV17839	SV17845
Gold Pout	SV20550	-	SV20560	-
Matt White Tobis	-	-	SV19349	SV19351
RRP	£9.99	£10.99	£11.99	£15.99
PRICE	£8.99	£9.99	£9.99	£12.99

A 3D Scan of a real sandeel, has provided the perfect details and body shape for this great line-thru hard lure!



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BIG CAT COUNTRY

Mike Millman on Scabbacombe Head in Devon, one of his highest-rated marks in the South West

This is a top-rated area for the shore angler and, aside from the difficulty of access by virtue of the distance from parking areas, I rate it as one of the best in the greater South West; the effort put in will always be rewarded.

SCABBACOMBE SANDS

This is the principal mark for bass, usually at first light on the bigger tides. Peeler crab gets the best response. The headland is a top wrasse area and it was here that an 8lb-plus specimen was caught by Paignton angler John Case. It was mounted and can be seen at Paignton SAA's headquarters in Cliff Road. The population of conger along this coast is considerable and dedication during the night hours can produce eels in the 35lb class. During the summer and autumn months big garfish and mackerel go for sandeel or worm on a float rig. Alternatively, spinning with artificials will achieve a good result. Small eyed ray are a great proposition, particularly if you fish sandeel on a bottom rig at any of the sandy coves.



FROWARD POINTS & NEWFOUNDLAND COVE

To the left of the headland the much rated Inner and Outer Froward Points can be relied on to give up small eyed during the night hours. It is much the same further on around the corner at Newfoundland Cove, which is in the mouth of the Dart Estuary. Good congeners are taken at all three

of these marks. From late November whiting and codling are available. Bottom fish with squid, cuttle, crab and worm offered on pulleys, paternosters and legers are the popular baits and methods. This stretch of coast has the rare distinction of bull huss feeding in daylight. From time-to-time gilthead bream and triggerfish put

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

The access points are Coletton Fishacre and the National Trust car park at Brownstone (Ordnance Survey sheet 188).

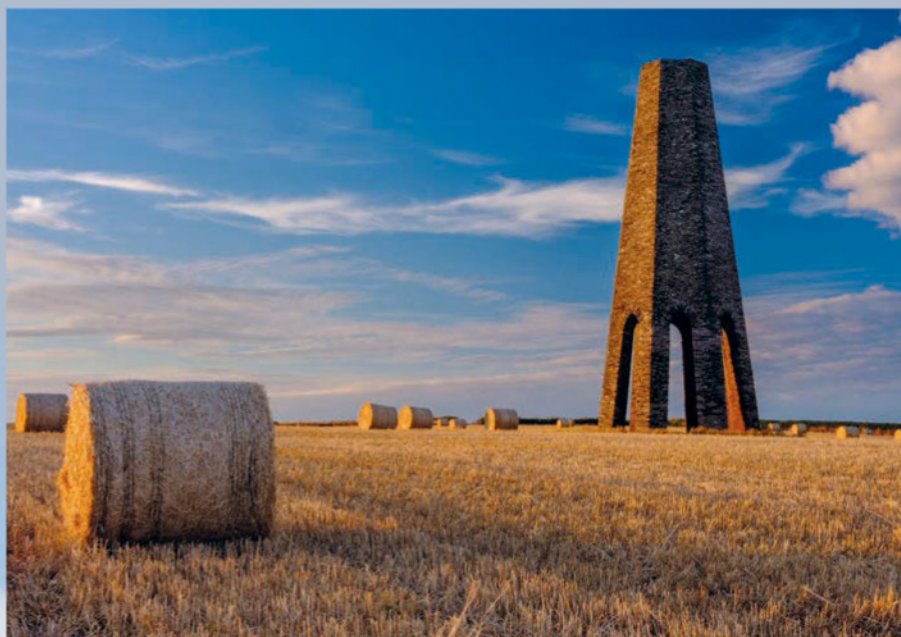


TACKLE & BAIT

Local tackle shops:
Paignton Tackle & Bait 42
Upper Manor Road
T: 01803 527159
Brixham Tackle & Bait
10 The Quay
T: 01803 853390

Otherwise, there are tackle shops throughout the Greater Torbay area.



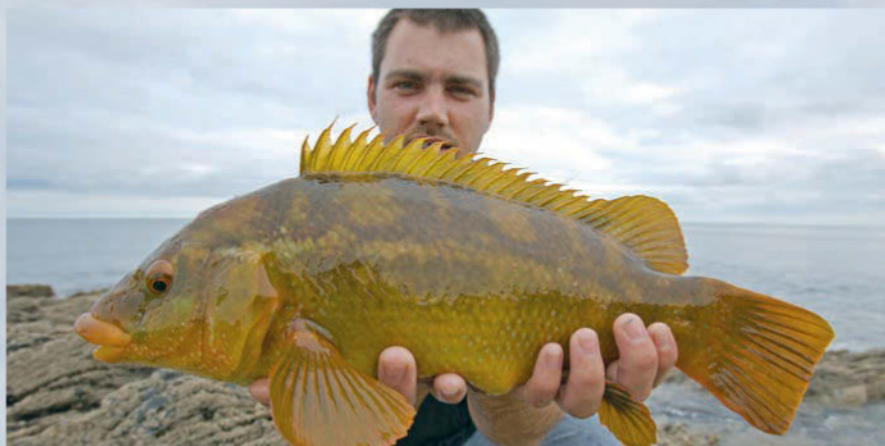


be a mystery as it was tremendously thick and thorny. The next morning I telephoned Paignton Zoo and reported the sighting. A spokesman said they were aware that such an animal was in the area, but it was not one of theirs! ■

in an appearance. The area is always a busy spot during the Torbay Sea Angling Festival, which this year celebrated its 54th year.

If you go down the path from Coletton Fishacre you will come across an 85ft high concrete Daymark. It was built in the 1830s and such is its height it can be seen at sea on a clear day for more than 20 miles.

Some time ago I was on my way down the path to Scabbacombe when I had the fright of my life. I was on a bend when no more than 10 yards away, and coming towards me, was a very large black animal that I was sure was a panther. There had been several sightings of such of beast in the area over a period of months. It was even more scared than I was and within a couple of seconds disappeared through the hedge – how, will always





DAVE'S DOZEN DOS AND DON'TS

BOOKING A CHARTER FISHING TRIP

With the help of some old friends and charter skippers Dave Lewis provides 12 invaluable top tips for anyone booking a boat



Booking a charter trip is a straightforward enough process; or is it? It's been many years since I actually booked a charter trip for myself and a group of friends, but after many months of resisting the request from a bunch of mates at my local pub, this year I finally conceded and set about organising a trip for what essentially was a group of novice boat anglers. Of course, I have a fair amount of experience fishing aboard charter boats the length and breadth of the British Isles, so I had a good idea of exactly what I wanted to arrange. Even so, I had to deal with the inevitable spanners in the works while attempting to choose a date that was A) suitable for the fishing we hoped to experience, B) the availability of a good boat on the day, and finally C) a date that suited everyone. I got there, eventually, but after all of my hard work the trip ended up being cancelled due to bad weather! I'm currently in the process of arranging an alternate date.

In this article I talk to several charter skipper friends and I ask them what advice they have for anyone looking to book their boat, either as a full charter (that is, booking the whole boat) or as an individual after a single place aboard an existing charter. Here's what they had to say.



Fishing from Flamer IV

Anglers on the way to the boats



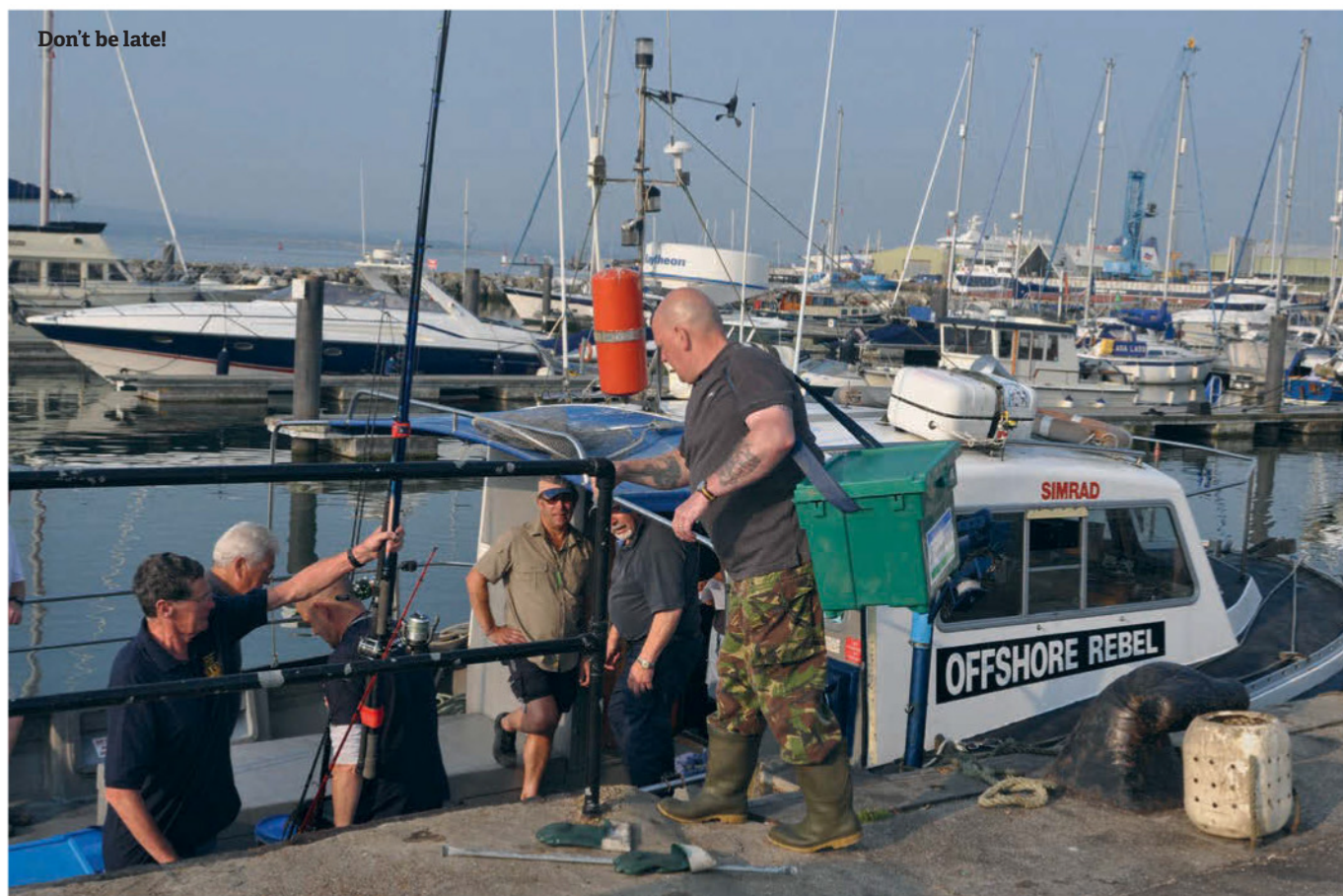
Pollack fishing aboard Deep Blue



COLIN PENNY: WEYMOUTH

First up, my old friend Colin Penny, skipper of Weymouth-based Flamer IV. "Plan and book well in advance. Look at the boat's website for information then contact the skipper for advice and any further information on the type and length of trip suitable for you or your group. Ask about the species likely to be caught as some species are seasonal in different areas.

"You should be prepared to pay a deposit or the full fee in advance. If you are booking for a group my advice is to get the money off them all in advance. All too often people don't turn up and leave it to the others to pay for the trip. Check to see if the skipper can supply you with rods, reels and the necessary end tackle, plus bait. Confirm how much this costs.



Don't be late!

"Always confirm the departure time and be at the boat in good time. It is important that you contact the skipper the day or evening before your trip to confirm the weather and that the trip is on or off. Often the skipper will not make a call on the trip until the evening before, when he has looked at the latest weather forecast. I often get people ringing me the morning before the trip saying the weather is OK, but as we all know this can change. It is completely down to the skipper whether the trip goes ahead or not. Safety will always be my first priority. If you want to drink lots of alcohol then book a booze cruise, not a fishing trip. Pubs are for drinking, charter boats are for fishing."

ROB RENNIE: MILFORD HAVEN

My next port of call, if you'll pardon the pun, was Milford Haven Marina in West Wales, and Rob Rennie, owner skipper of Shimano sponsored 'Lady Jen', who said told me, "This is a subject that I could go on and on about! Once you've done your homework choose your skipper, the type of trip you want and the time of year. Ideally your first trips will be during the summer, there's nothing worse than struggling in the wet and cold."

"Are you looking to book your own trip, or join another group as an individual? If you have a group of friends that have limited experience and are keen to book the whole boat the skipper can possibly get crew and can spend the time

"I love having novice anglers aboard that are keen, and I try to slot them in with an experienced crew so they get to see good anglers in action, and hopefully plenty of fish on the deck"



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"You will probably be asked to pay a deposit and you must be prepared to pay the balance if you can't make the trip and cancel at short notice. Confirm what happens if the trip is cancelled in the event of bad weather. Will your deposit be returned, or will it be moved forward to another mutually agreed date? If after booking a trip something comes up and you can't make it, ring the organiser or the skipper as soon as possible. Given sufficient notice they may be able to fill your space. In 30 years I have only taken the balance off one angler, and that was because he just didn't turn up."

SAM NARBETT: ST IVES

Finally we move to the north Cornish coast and St Ives, home port of 'Bluefin', owned and skippered by Sam Narbett. Sam's crews consist of both hugely experienced sea anglers and complete novice holiday makers, so I was particularly keen to hear what he had to say.

"Take some time to find the right boat and the right duration trip, for you and your level of fishing experience. Do your homework as some charter boats are more beginner friendly than others! The skipper takes a different view when planning a trip when he has beginners or inexperienced anglers aboard. This could mean that the trip is more likely to be cancelled if the weather is not good enough to take beginners out, as the last thing the skipper wants is give everyone a bad experience.

"Manage your expectations and explain to the skipper what you would like to catch. The skipper is most likely to choose a type of fishing that suits all of the day's crew, not just an individual. This may mean a more basic or easier style of fishing, with greater rewards for all. With this in mind wreck and reef trips are a good choice, as this is most likely to involve fishing on the drift using some form of lure or soft plastics. It's an active style of fishing that can be very productive for cod, pollock, bass, ling and the various wrasse species."

As an alternative you could book a trip fishing at anchor, bait fishing. This is very easy for the skipper to get everyone set up and fishing and is more suitable for species like tope, bull huss, conger eel and rays. Just remember to check what tackle or bait you need and ask what's included in the cost of the trip. There might be an additional cost for lost tackle or rod hire.

As the trip approaches please don't send the skipper loads of messages asking about information as he will be very busy. Read the website for all the information you can. You'll most likely find answers to your questions there. If not, then make a list of any questions you want to ask so you can just send one email or text. Finally, if the skipper cancels the trip due to weather do not question his decision, as that never goes down well. Trust me, charter skippers don't like losing money! ■

"Take some time to find the right boat and the right duration trip, for you and your level of fishing experience"

to tutor you all. If you turn up with 12 novice anglers, then often you will have three or four who are just there for the day out and aren't really interested in learning how to fish.

"You need to bear in mind that a good skipper could well be booked 12 months in advance, but he may be able to fit you in as an individual angler. When you first talk with your skipper be honest and explain your previous experience. Tell him what you would like to achieve from the day. Don't be afraid to tell the truth. If you have never fished off a boat or used a multiplier reel before then say so. I love having novice anglers aboard that are keen, and I try to slot them in with an experienced crew so they get to see good anglers in action, and hopefully plenty of fish on the deck.



DAVE'S DOZEN DOS AND DON'TS

I have summarised what I perceive as being the most important points to consider when booking a charter boat. Good luck, and remember there is absolutely nothing anybody can do about the weather!

■ The first step in booking a charter trip should be to decide which species you would like to target. Next contact a few skippers at the port you intend fishing from in order to determine the optimum time of year to fish, along with suitable tides. Remember the best charter boats always get booked first, often as much as a year in advance for peak season, so early enquiries are recommended.

■ If you have a specific date in mind for your trip once again contact the skipper as early as possible, only this time ask his advice for the best fishing options available on that specific day.

■ When you speak to a skipper establish the duration and the full cost of the trip at the earliest opportunity. Obtaining a copy of this in writing, such as a brief email, is always a good idea.

■ You will probably need to pay a deposit for the trip. Establish how much the skipper requires, and exactly what happens in the event of the trip being cancelled due to bad weather. Will the deposit be returned, or will it be carried over to an alternate date? You need to discuss this at the time of booking.

■ Remember it will be the skipper's call to cancel the trip due to weather, not yours. If you cancel a charter trip at short notice then you will probably lose your deposit, unless the skipper can fill the date.

■ Be absolutely clear as to whether you are booking the whole boat for the sole use of your crew, or are you booking individual places with the skipper filling the remainder? In the latter case if you book four places and turn up with a crew of three, you will probably have to make up the shortfall for the fourth angler.

■ If you require bait who will be providing it: you or the skipper? If it is your crew ask the skipper exactly what type and quantity of bait he recommends and be sure to turn up for the day equipped accordingly. If the skipper is providing the bait, establish the cost.

■ Will you require the use of hire tackle? If you do confirm the skipper has sufficient tackle for your group on board. You will usually be required to pay for tackle losses and any breakages, so confirm the costs for these.

■ If you are supplying tackle and are not certain as to exactly what you need, confirm these requirements with the skipper. As with bait, follow the skipper's advice and turn up for the day with tackle suitable for what he has recommended you need.

■ You will probably be asked to ring the skipper the day before your trip to confirm final details and the weather forecast, along with any adjustments to the originally advised bait and tackle requirements based on how the fishing has been. Make sure you ring at a sensible time, not late in the evening.

■ If the skipper gives a sailing time of say 07:00, you need to be parked, dressed and on the boat at least 10 or 15 minutes before. His sailing time might well have been chosen to coincide with optimum tide times for fishing, or at certain ports' locking out times. Turning up late is not the best start of the day.

■ Finally, ask about parking. Parking is becoming more of a problem at many ports, and the skipper will advise the best place to park your car. Increasingly this will be a pay and display car park, so make sure you have the means to pay for a full day's parking.

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YOUNG RODS

Sea Angler's celebration of the great angling achievements of its many younger readers

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▲ **Tom Foster** from Watchet caught a cracking bass of 7lb when fishing off Watchet Harbour using mackerel. On an earlier trip at Minehead Harbour he also caught a 6lb 4oz specimen.



◀ **Alex Bausola** was fishing with his dad when he caught two bass in the same session from a beach in Kent; one weighed 12lb and the other 8lb. Both were caught on squid and mackerel using a running ledger with 4/0 hooks and 4oz lead.



▲ **Frank Harris**, aged eight, from Canterbury with a 2lb 2oz ballan wrasse caught while on holiday at Loch Long at Arrochar in Scotland. Frank was using ragworm on a float.



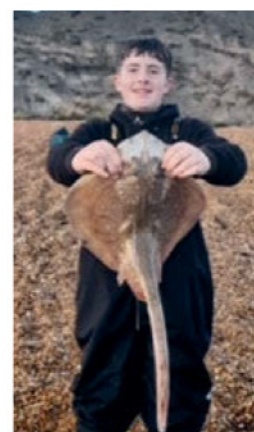
15-year-old **Jayden Kingswell** with a 22lb 8oz tope caught from a local mark on the Isle of Wight.



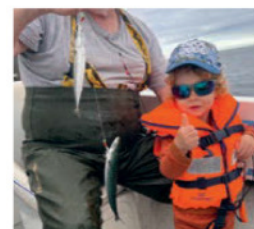
◀ **Lexie Groves** caught this 2lb 6oz sole at Hinkley Point in Somerset on a pulley Pennell using ragworm. She also caught an 11lb 8oz conger using the same tactics.



▲ **Ben Allen** with a 2lb golden grey mullet caught at Shoreham in West Sussex. Ben caught the fish on ragworm bait using a two hook flapper.



▲ **Franky Roberts** with his first ray at Atherfield on the Isle of Wight. He was using herring as bait and a pulley Pennell.



▲ **William Jones** with his first mackerel on his first fishing trip on board grandad's boat fishing from Port Logan in south west Scotland.



▲ **Phoebe Ollett**, aged 13, caught this lovely 4lb 8oz bass from Walton-on-the-Naze on her dad's boat using ragworm.



▲ Eight-year-old **Angellica Zawada Sharp** on her first sea fishing experience with an 11lb 4oz smoothhound caught on ragworm from Trimmingham Beach.



▲ 12-year-old **Ronnie Ransley** from Dover in Kent was fishing at Hythe when he caught a small thornback ray and a flounder using ragworm on a Wessex rig.



▲ **Archie Beattie**, aged four, with his first fish on his first trip with his granddad: a flounder caught on squid at Newcastle Business Park.

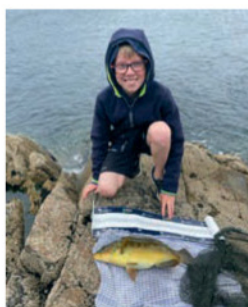


▲ **Nancie Coombs** with a 46cm bass caught off Mylor on freelined prawn. She also had a Couch's Bream. Dad had to hold her telescopic rod but Nancie wound the fish in.

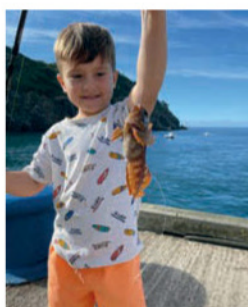


▲ Eight-year-old **Frank Harris** here with a 7lb bass caught on a hand line bait from the shore in Lymington Quay. Must have been quite a struggle to get it in.

► Eight-year-old **Kai Evans** of Pontyberem caught his first ever bass on his first outing at Pendine. It weighed 3lb 2oz and was caught on a Patchinko 125.



▲ **Paddy Kirby** landed this cracking ballan wrasse out fishing with his dad from the rocks in Connemara in County Galway, Ireland. This was one of 12 fish he landed in the session.



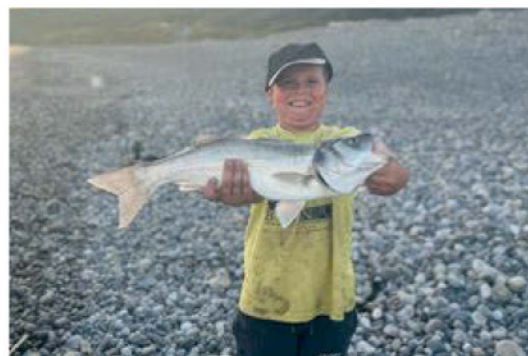
▲ Five-year-old **James Kennedy** had his first fish: a tompot blenny. He also managed a ballan and corkwing wrasse, all on frozen black lug.



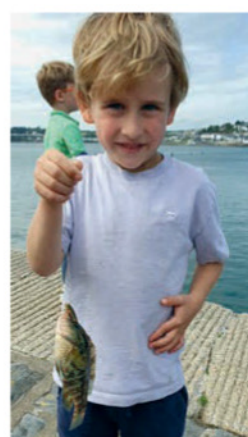
▲ **Ben Allen**, aged 12, caught his first ever smoothhound in Whitstable in Kent using peeler crab. It weighed 6lb 4oz.



▲ Five-year-old **William** caught his first ever fish during a day's beach fishing with his grandad at Pakefield near Lowestoft.



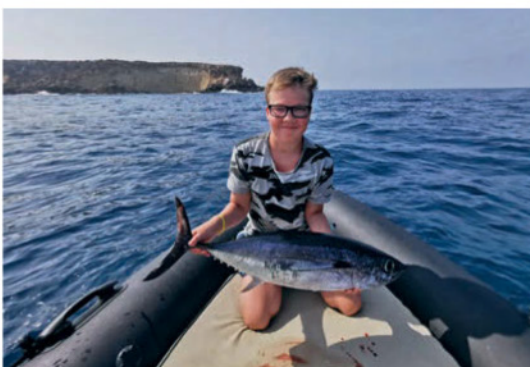
◀ **Jacob Osborne**, five-years-old, with a corkwing wrasse caught on small pieces of ragworm on a 2-hook flapper over the slipway wall at Hobbs Point, Pembroke Dock.



► **Zack Morris**, 9-years-old, from Cheshire, caught himself a nice little plaice on the Gynn wall on his first time ever sea fishing.



▼ **Tom Harker**, aged 14, from Hampshire was fishing from Paphos in Cyprus when he caught this 17lb 4oz Albacore on a plug.



▲ **Jack Laffin** caught a 7lb smoothhound and 3lb bass (his first ever after months of trying for one), both caught on Sea Leopard out of Brightlingsea skippered by John Marks. Both fish were caught on running ledgers with ragworm and squid as bait.

£25 TACKLE VOUCHER WINNERS



Fishingmegastore.com awards a £25 voucher prize to each of two winners - the youngster with the best shore fish and another with the top boat catch. The winners can use the voucher to select tackle from **Fishingmegastore.com** which is based in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

■ Send your Young Rods entries by email to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



Jim Evans, Doncaster
Fish: 22lb 3oz smoothhound
Bait: peeler crab/squid cocktail
Venue: Kilnsea Beach **Date:** 02/08/23



Jim Stone, Dorset
Fish: 51lb 9oz brill **Bait:** Mackerel and squid strips
Venue: Weymouth **Date:** 22/09/23



Byron Jones, Newport
Fish: 72lb 4oz conger
Venue: Mid Channel wreck **Date:** 09/09/23



Craig Dalton
Fish: 11lb 6oz bass
Venue: Kent



Donald Hadwin
Fish: 5lb 8oz ballan wrasse **Venue:** Puffin Island
Date: 21/09/23



Kyle Thacker
Fish: 8lb 4oz bass **Bait:** Whole mackerel
Venue: Admiralty Pier **Date:** 04/09/23



Ian Youngs, Dorset
Fish: 3lb 8oz black bream **Bait:** Squid strip
Venue: Weymouth **Date:** 08/09/23



Oli Turner, Kent
Fish: 14lb 6oz smoothhound **Bait:** Live prawn
Venue: Ramsgate **Date:** 10/09/23



Sean Stevenson
Fish: 2lb 8oz red gurnard
Bait: Khaki Boss minnow
Venue: Jurassic coast
Date: 08/09/23



Mick Franks, Somerset
Fish: 2lb Couch's bream
Lure: Kabura Jig
Venue: Sennan
Date: 23/08/23



Chris Forbes, Whitehaven
Fish: Pilot fish **Bait:** sabikis
Venue: Boat mark off Whitehaven Pier
Date: 04/09/23



Scott Hicks, Llanharry
Fish: 7lb 4oz bass **Bait:** Joey mackerel
Venue: Cardiff barrage **Date:** 19/09/23



Ritchie Lee, Wirral
Fish: 10lb 03oz thornback ray **Bait:** squid and bluey wrap **Venue:** Perch Rock, New Brighton
Date: 3/9/23



Siripong Thanathanum
Fish: Bonito **Bait:** Sabikis
Venue: Brighton Marina



Lenny Skilton, Plymouth
Fish: 12lb small eyed ray **Bait:** squid and mackerel cocktail **Venue:** Weymouth
Date: 01/09/23



Vic Manning, Essex
Fish: 223lb common skate
Venue: Baltimore, south-west Cork

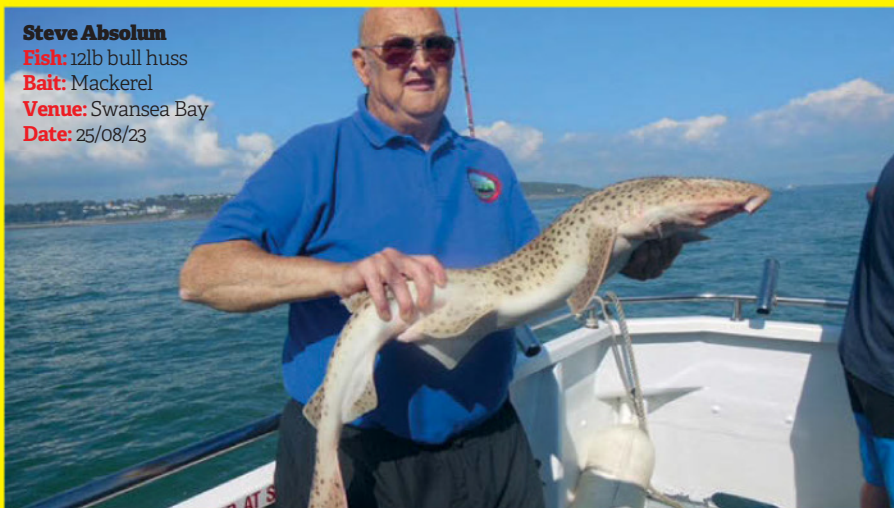
Steve Absolum

Fish: 12lb bull huss

Bait: Mackerel

Venue: Swansea Bay

Date: 25/08/23



Vic Manning Junior, Essex

Fish: 180lb common skate

Venue: Baltimore, south-west Cork



John Cranny, Dorset

Fish: 21lb blonde ray **Bait:** Squid and mackerel strips

Venue: Weymouth

Date: 07/09/23



John Reed, Taunton

Fish: 72lb conger eel **Bait:** Mackerel and squid

Venue: Beer, Devon **Date:** 03/09/23



Graham Gardner, Colchester

Fish: 13lb undulate ray

Bait: Squid and mackerel cocktail

Venue: Weymouth **Date:** 07/09/23

HOW TO ENTER

Email only to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk

Please supply these details: angler's name, age, address, telephone number, email, type of FISH, weight of FISH, where caught, DATE caught, BAIT/rig, whether caught from shore or boat, if from charter boat, give name of boat, port and skipper. Please state if the FISH was retained or returned.

Send us your entries and win some great prizes

■ **SHORE LURE OPTION:** Solaris 4000 or 5000 reel, RRP: £60, Epixor 15-50g rod RRP: £80

■ **SHORE LURE OPTION:** Solaris 4000 or 5000 reel, RRP: £60, Epixor 15-50g rod RRP: £80

■ **BOAT:** Classic CLX, RRP: £60

Cortez Boat Rod, RRP: £90

■ **SHORE BAIT OPTION:** DSA reel RRP: £60, Wave Power surf rod, RRP: £80

YOUR TARGETS...

Catch a FISH on this list at the weight or above in your region to qualify for the chance to win prizes in our Mission catch competition. To enter, send us the details requested above and email that information and your picture to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk.

	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	7lb	9lb
Black bream	2lb	3lb
Red bream	2lb	3lb
Couch's & Pandora's bream	11b 8oz	11b 8oz
Gilthead bream	4lb	4lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	3lb	5lb
Bull huss	8lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	10lb
Conger	20lb	40lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Halibut	20lb	20lb
Ling	5lb	19lb
Mullet	4lb	5lb
Golden grey mullet	2lb	2lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coal	6lb	12lb
Common skate	60lb	100lb
Blonde ray	12lb	17lb
Thornback ray	9lb	14lb
Small-eyed/undulate	7lb	11lb
Ray (other)	3lb	5lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	10lb	14lb
Spurdog	7lb	11lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Trigger	2lb	3lb
Turbot	10lb	13lb
Wrasse (ballan)	4lb	4lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	60lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	100lb

THE RULES...

- Only catches since September are eligible.
- We must see a picture of the fish.
- We may refuse an entry.
- Enter by email only (please include all of the information requested in How to Enter panel) to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk
- Prizes as stated (Okuma reserves the right to send alternatives).

MONTHLY WINNERS:

SHORE: Jim Evans, Doncaster

BOAT: Byron Jones, Newport

For Bass,
Cod, Halibut &
all Predatory
Species

Amazing Swimming Action;
Through Wired For Extra Strength
200mm / 100grams



Mullet



Blue Scad



Atlantic Blue
Mackerel



Atlantic Green
Mackerel



Striped Bass

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**100% WATERPROOF & SEAWATER READY
FISHING DRONE**



- 3.5KG BAIT CAPACITY -

1.6KM CASTING RANGE

30 MINUTE FLIGHT TIME

4K + ONE AXIS CAMERA



HM65R

1400 Lumen total output
1000 Lumen white spotlight
400 Lumen white floodlight
1 x 3400mAh battery

£107.95 RRP



**BEST
SELLER**



HM65R SHADOWMASTER

1200 Lumen white spotlight
150 Lumen red floodlight
1 x 3400mAh battery

£109.95 RRP

**RED
LIGHT**

HP25R V2.0

1600 Lumens max output
Spot, white flood and red light
1 x 5000mAh battery
290 meter range

£134.95 RRP



**LONG
RANGE**

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PO Box 672, Norwich, NR3 2ZR

MULTIPLIER SURF REELS

7HT Millionaire Tournament RRP £225 £159.99	7HT Millionaire Mag RRP £399 £279.99	7HT Millionaire Mag Super Tuned RRP £595 £419.99	SL20SH Sealine Slesh RRP £135 £99.99	SL30SH Sealine Slesh RRP £135 £99.99
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SURF REELS for 2023

Fishing reels for beach fishing

Shorecast - 5000B Fixed spool surf reel RRP £349.99 £79.99	Shorecast - 6000B Fixed spool surf reel RRP £349.99 £79.99	20 Crosscast 35 SCW 5000C QD Surf reel RRP £110 £89.99	20 Crosscast 45 SCW 5000C QD Surf reel RRP £145 £109.99	19 Emblem 45 SCW QD Surfcasting reel RRP £215 £169.99	20 T Basia 45 SCW 5000C QD Surf reel RRP £290 £599
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4, 5 & 6 PIECE TRAVEL RODS

- HVF + X45
- 3DX + V-Joint
- Fuji 'O' Ring Guides
- Rubber Glimbal
- Multi Section assembly for compact pack down

Saltist 4 & 5 Piece Travel Spin Rods RRP **NOW**

6ft 5in - 28-84g	4 Piece	£195	£149
7ft - 14-42g	4 Piece	£210	£159
8ft - 14-42g	5 Piece	£220	£169
8ft 6in - 80-140g	5 Piece Travel	£230	£179

Tournament 4 Piece Travel Boat Rods RRP **NOW**

6ft 6in - 30-60lbs	4 Piece	£235	£169
7ft 6in - 15-25lbs or 25-40lbs	4 Piece	£235	£169

Seahunter Z Bass Travel Rod - 6 Piece
11ft - 2-4oz 6 Piece **SOLD OUT**

SHIMANO SURFCASTING REELS

Surfleader C14+ Reel RRP £284.99 £214.99	Power Aero 14000 XSB Reel RRP £399.99 £339.99	Fliegen 355D Reel RRP £459.99 £399.99	Bull's Eye 9120 Surf Reel RRP £419.99 £389.99	Bull's Eye 9100 Surf Reel RRP £419.99 £389.99	Aero Technium MgS XSD - 14000 Reel RRP £699.99 £599.99
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SHIMANO AERLEX SURF HYBRID/TUBULAR RODS

Affordability, impressive casting performance and build quality, make this rod ideal for the serious angler with a limited budget, or the improving angler who wants to move up the price scale.

Aerlex Surf Rod 4ft (4.25m)	Hybrid 3 Piece - 150g - Seaguide Zirconia	RRP NOW
Aerlex Surf Rod 4ft (4.25m)	Hybrid 3 Piece - 200g - Seaguide Zirconia	£129.99 £109.99
Aerlex Surf Rod 4ft 6in (4.5m)	Hybrid 3 Piece - 150g - Seaguide Zirconia	£134.99 £109.99
Aerlex Surf Rod 4ft 6in (4.5m)	Hybrid 3 Piece - 200g - Seaguide Zirconia	£144.99 £119.99
Aerlex Surf Rod 3ft (4.05m)	Hybrid 3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£129.99 £109.99
Aerlex Surf Rod 4ft (4.25m)	Hybrid 3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£144.99 £119.99
Aerlex Surf Rod	Tubular 3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£149.99 £124.99

SHIMANO SPEEDMASTER - BXG Surf Rods

Fishing rods for beach fishing

2 PIECES

• Sensitive Hybrid tips • Fuji Fastlite K-type / Fuji Low Rider guides
• High Modulus Full Carbon blank • Fuji DPS reel seat
• Diatlas construction in the lower part

14ft 3 Piece - 150g - Fuji Fastlite K-type	RRP NOW
14ft 3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Fastlite K-type	£184.99 £149
14ft 3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Fastlite K-type	£194.99 £155
14ft 6in 3 Piece - 150g - Fuji Fastlite K-type	£199.99 £159
14ft 6in 3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Fastlite K-type	£204.99 £165
13ft 3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£189.99 £149
14ft 3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£194.99 £155
14ft 3 Piece - 200g - Fuji Low Rider Concept "O"	£194.99 £155

SPEEDMASTER - Beach Rods

High Modulus Full Carbon + HPC blank with Nanosheet technology produces lighter, stronger blank with increased responsiveness and casting distance.

14ft 9in Solid + 3 Tips 120g / 4oz	RRP OFFER PRICE
15ft 5in Solid 150g / 6oz	£214.99 £125
	£214.99 £125

SONIK BACK IN BLACK

MULTIPLIER FIXED SPOOL

DOMINATOR XS

11ft 5in - 2-4oz MFS	RRP NOW
	£89.99 £75
13ft - 4-6oz MFS	£119.99 £89
14ft - 5-7oz MFS	£129.99 £99

MATCH 13ft - 4-6oz MFS **£149.99 £115**

SPORT 13ft - 4-6oz MFS **£159.99 £119**

anyfish anywhere Tournament Match Pro Mk2 Review

Worlds first truly Professional standard beach fishing rods

Grand Prix Pro Mk2
Slimmed down version, lighter by about 30% and has a 24mm butt + Reducer.
Multiplier 13ft 10in
Casts 4-7oz (150-200g)
RRP **NOW**
£574.99 **£459.99**

Estuary Rods Mk2
11ft - Casts 30-100g
12ft - Casts 30-100g
RRP **NOW**
£230 **£184.99**
£235 **£189.99**

Tournament GBFS Pro Mk2
Fixed Spool 14ft + Reducer
Casts 4-8oz (121-225g)
RRP **NOW**
£549.99 **£439.99**

Tournament Match PRO Mk2
Multiplier 13ft 11in + Reducer
Casts 4-7oz (125-200g)
RRP **NOW**
£549.99 **£439.99**

Tournament Bass Pro Mk1
12ft 6in - 90-150g
Suitable for Fixed Spool & Multiplier
RRP **NOW**
£325 **£275**

anyfish anywhere Blue Label Range

Exceptional performance both in terms of casting and fishing at a price point that makes them very accessible.

LOWER PRICES THIS MONTH

four&bait rod mk2

Surfcasting Rods	RRP	PRICE
13ft 3-5oz Fixed Spool	£215	£169.99
13ft 3-5oz Multiplier	£215	£169.99
13ft 3-5oz Fixed Spool	£225	£179.99
14ft 3-5oz Multiplier	£225	£179.99

six&bait rod mk2

Surfcasting Rods	RRP	PRICE
13ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£245	£194.99
13ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£245	£194.99
14ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£255	£199.99
14ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£255	£199.99
15ft 5-7oz Fixed Spool	£265	£209.99
15ft 5-7oz Multiplier	£265	£209.99

ASSO FISHING LINE & RYCO BRAID

Choice of 12 Lures & Leaders

CROSSCAST 33 - Surf Rods

For distance beach work with a big fixed spool over clean to medium ground. The built in carbon Hybrid Tip, ensures bite detection across the species mix.

13ft 10in Hybrid Tip	100-225g	RRP NOW
		£125 £89
14ft 10in Hybrid Tip	100-225g	£140 £99

SANDSTORM - Surf Rods

- Premium Carbon Blanks + Fuji BRC Butt Cap
- Split EVA Grip Handle + Strong DPS Reel Seat
- SEAGUIDE Deep Drawn Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Ring

12ft 6in Multiplier	100-200g	RRP NOW
		£180 £129.99
13ft 6in Multiplier	100-200g	£190 £139.99
14ft 2in Multiplier	100-200g	£190 £139.99
12ft 6in Fixed Spool	100-200g	£180 £129.99
13ft 6in Fixed Spool	100-200g	£190 £139.99

SHIMANO SURF RODS

Fishing rods for beach fishing

AIR SURF - Surf Rods

- SVF and X45
- Mega Top Carbon Hybrid Tip
- Guides: Fuji K Guide with Alconite (Multiplier)
- Guides: Fuji LC with Alconite (Fixed Spool)

13ft 6in Multiplier	2 Piece	4-8oz	RRP NOW
			£515 £359
14ft 2in Multiplier	2 Piece	4-8oz	£525 £389
15ft 3in Fixed Spool	3 Piece	3-7oz	£550 £399

TOURNAMENT - PRO Surf Rods

2 Piece	RRP NOW	
11ft 6in Bass Fixed Spool	2-4oz	£275 £199.99
13ft 6in Multiplier	3-7oz	£355 £259.99
14ft 6in Multiplier	4-8oz	£355 £259.99

TOURNAMENT - HT Surf Rods

14ft	Fixed Spool Hybrid 3-6oz	£340 £249
15ft	Fixed Spool Hybrid 3-6oz	£360 £269

SHIMANO SURFCASTING REELS

Aerlex 10000XSB Surf Casting Reel RRP £114.99 £89.99	Speedmaster 14000XSD Surf Reel RRP £164.99 £149.99	Ultra XSD 5500 Surf Reel / Big Pit Reel RRP £174.99 £119	Ultra 14000 XSD Surf Reel RRP £174.99 £119	Ultra XSE 14000 Surf Reel RRP £299.99 £189.99	Ultra C14+ 14000 XSC Surf Reel RRP £299.99 £259.99
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SHIMANO SURF RODS

Fishing rods for beach fishing

AERLEX Surf Rods **3 PIECES**

- Full Carbon blank + Fast action
- Seaguide XDG, XEDG or Low Rider guides
- Shimano DPS reel seat

14ft Hybrid 150g	£129.99 £109.99
14ft Hybrid 200g	£129.99 £109.99
14ft 6in Hybrid 150g	£134.99 £109.99
14ft 6in Hybrid 200g	£144.99 £119.99
13ft Hybrid Low Rider 200g	£129.99 £109.99
14ft Hybrid Low Rider 200g	£144.99 £119.99
14ft Hybrid Tubular 200g	£149.99 £124.99

BEASTMASTER - Surf Rods

Fitted with a Shimano DPS reel seat with a custom casting grip handle for maximum grip pressure, even in wet conditions.

4.25m Surf Hybrid J 200g 3 Piece	RRP NOW
	£104.99 £84.99
4.25m Surf Hybrid J 225g - Low Rider 3 Piece	£124.99 £114.99
4.25m Surf Tubular J 225g 3 Piece	£104.99 £84.99
4.25m Surf Tubular J 225g - Low Rider 3 Piece	£124.99 £114.99
4.25m FX Surf Tele 150g 6 Piece	£89.99 £79.99
4.25m FX Surf Tele 170g 6 Piece	£94.99 £84.99
4.25m FX Surf Tele 200g 6 Piece	£109.99 £89.99

NEXAVE - Surf Rods

Supplied with 2 Tips, either tubular for extra distance casting or solid for a good bite detection.

Surf Lite / Rough Ground Rods	RRP NOW
13ft Tubular Lite 120g	£134.99 £79
13ft Tubular - Rough 225g	£139.99 £89

SHIMANO SURF RODS

Fishing rods for beach fishing

STC - Travel Surf Rods

- 6 Pieces
- Blank material: X160 + NANO
- Reel seat: Shimano DPS
- Guide type: Shimano
- Stainless Steel Hardbite
- Packaged in a hardcase tube
- Number of guides: 9

13ft 225g	RRP NOW
	£224.99 £199.99
14ft 225g	£249.99 £199.99

ULTRA - BX Surf Rods

Hi-Power X construction for reduced blank twist and greater rod strength - a true casting machine.

13ft 11in Tubular 225g	RRP NOW
	£299.99 £199
13ft 11in Solid 225g	£299.99 £199
14ft 9in Tubular 225g	£309.99 £199
14ft 9in Solid 225g	£309.99 £199

SONIK GRAVITY X5HT

Unground carbon finish at rod joints makes it easier to take apart after use • White hollow carbon tip for easy bite detection in poor light conditions • Fuji corrosion control frames provide 7 times more corrosion resistance • Shrink wrap on the lower handle to improve grip whilst casting • Super lightweight high modulus carbon blank • XS multi-directional nanofibre tip section lay-up • Fuji Alconite K Series guides • Fuji DPS reel fitting

It's an absolutely fantastic shore rod
The ultimate power is utterly immense and evident during the casting process
Paul French - Sea Angler review issue 566 Jan/Feb '19

14ft - 5-7oz - 2 Piece	RRP NOW
	£329.99 £249.99
15ft 4in - 4-8oz - 3 Piece	£349.99 £299.99

A true all rounder...15ft 4in - 4-8oz - 3 Piece

AKIOS BEACHCASTERS - 2023 COLLECTION

FURY FX435 SRS POWER CONTINENTAL ROD + 3 PIECE 4.35m / 4ft 6in RRP £139.99 £145	AIRPOWER SURF 435 MINIKAWA CONTINENTAL ROD + 3 PIECE 4.35m / 14ft 6in RRP £379.99 £399	AIRPOWER SURF 435 RXP MINIKAWA CONTINENTAL ROD + 3 PIECE 4.35m / 14ft 6in RRP £439.99 £469
AIRLITE 355 CONTINENTAL ROD + 2 PIECE 3.55m / 11ft 6in RRP £139.99 £169	AIRTORQUE SURF 435 MINIKAWA CONTINENTAL ROD + 3 PIECE 4.35m / 14ft 6in RRP £379.99 £399	AIRPOWER SURF 435 SRS MINIKAWA CONTINENTAL ROD + 3 PIECE 4.35m / 14ft 6in RRP £439.99 £469
CREED GP420 MINIKAWA CONTINENTAL ROD + 2 PIECE 13ft 10in RRP £449.99 £399	AIRPOWER SURF 420 GTR MINIKAWA CONTINENTAL ROD + 2 PIECE 4.2m / 14ft RRP £449.99 £379	

AKIOS WHEN DISTANCE MATTERS SHUTTLE

A forward thinking company based in the UK. Developed by anglers for anglers who demand new, innovative and durable fishing tackle.

6 Models - from £189.99

NITRON F-15XP £259.99	S-LINE 5 Models from £129.99	TOURNO 3 Models from £229.99	DYNAMO 2 Models £79.99
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SHUTTLE 656
 LIMITED STOCK

LEVEL UP YOUR GAME
 Ideal for shore or in-shore boat fishing.
 RRP £239.99 £219.99

AKIOS NITRON F-15XP

BEACH / SURF REEL

New and improved version features an upgraded magnetic braking system and an upgraded drag mechanism allowing for bigger baits to be kept under control during the cast and bigger fish to be tamed.

- UPGRADED AKIOS QUADRO Magnetic Braking System for even greater casting control
- UPGRADED Drag System
- EVA Ball Power Handle
- Superfast 6.2:1 Retrieve Ratio
- Powerful Precision Machined Bronze/Brass Gearing
- Colossal 10x44mm Main Gear
- Supersized 5mmØ Hardened Steel Spindle

RRP £259 £219.99

DAIWA BOAT RODS

Fishing rods suitable for boat trips

Seahunter Z Boat Rods - 2 piece - 4 Models	from £59
Saltist Jigging/Popping Boat Rods - 2 piece - 3 Models	from £169
Tournament Boat Rods - 2 piece - 5 Models	RRP £215 from £159
Team Daiwa X Boat Rods - 2 piece - 3 Models	RRP £170 from £129

Kenzaki Super Boat Rods - 2, 3 & 4 piece - 13 Models
 RRP £190 from £159.99

SHIMANO STAND-UP BOAT RODS

Fishing rods for sea fishing

TLD - A Stand-Up Boat Rods
 This rod is the perfect choice when you want to fish for big tuna or shark.

- XT60 + Biofibre blank
- Machined from marine grade aluminium and anodized to prevent corrosion.

1.67m 20lb	RRP £124.99	NOW £99
1.67m 30lb Roller	RRP £189.99	£139
1.67m 50lb Roller	RRP £214.99	£159
1.67m 80lb Roller	RRP £219.99	£169

VENGEANCE - Stand-Up Boat Rods

- Perfect for small boats
- 5ft 5in 10lb - 16lb RRP £64.99 £35
- 5ft 5in 10lb - 20lb RRP £64.99 £35
- 5ft 5in 20lb - 30lb RRP £64.99 £35
- 5ft 5in 30lb - 50lb RRP £64.99 £35

TYRNOs - A stand-Up Boat Rods

- ALPS heavy duty SIC lined guides
- Ideal for UK Shark Fishing
- 1.65m 30lb RRP £234.99 £199
- 1.65m 50lb RRP £234.99 £199
- 1.65m 80lb RRP £234.99 £199

TIAGRA - Hyper Stand-Up Boat Rods

- High pressure carbon blanks + AFTO guides
- Pacific Bay Reelseat
- 1.75m 30lb RRP £414.99 £269
- 1.73m 50lb Bent Butt RRP £434.99 £299
- 1.6m 80lb Bent Butt RRP £534.99 £399

SHIMANO STAND-UP BOAT RODS

TIAGRA XTR A STAND-UP TROLLING RRP £329.99 NOW SOLD OUT	TIAGRA HYPER STAND-UP RRP £414.99 NOW £269	TIAGRA ULTRA GAME STAND-UP RRP £924.99 NOW £599	TIAGRA LTD EDITION ULTRA A STAND-UP RRP £924.99 NOW £599
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5' 5" - 80lb £329.99 OUT

1.75m - 30lb £414.99 £269
 1.73m - 50lb Bent Butt £434.99 £299
 1.6m - 80lb Bent Butt £534.99 £399

5' 4" - 50lb £924.99 £599
 5' 4" - 80lb £934.99 £699
 5' 5" - 30lb - 50lb RRP £924.99 £599
 5' 5" - 50lb - 80lb RRP £924.99 £599

OKUMA MAKAIRA BIG GAME REELS

INSPIRED FISHING BIG GAME REELS

MAKAIRA MK-30 II Big Game Reel £499	MAKAIRA MK-50 II Big Game Reel £559	MAKAIRA MK-50W II Big Game Reel £569	MAKAIRA MK-80 II Big Game Reel £895
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OKUMA CAVALLA REELS

INSPIRED FISHING

CAVALLA CAV-SNS RH Single Speed Lever Drag Reel - £199	CAVALLA CAV-S5 RH Single Speed Lever Drag Reel - £209	CAVALLA CAV-S11 RH 2 Speed Lever Drag Reel - £225	CAVALLA CAV-S11 RH Two-Speed Lever Drag Reel - £525	CAVALLA CAV-121 RH Two-Speed Lever Drag Reel - £369.99	CAVALLA CAV-SN11L LH Two-Speed Lever Drag Reel - £249
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AKIOS BEACHCASTERS

FEEL THE FURY

CONTINENTAL + 3 PIECE

FURY FX420/450
 RRP NOW 14ft £154.99 £129
 15ft £159.99 £129

UTOPIA 420
 3 PIECE CONTINENTAL ROD + 3 PIECE POWER TIP
 14ft - 4.2m RRP £329.99 £229

ENDURANCE PRO RS2
 SENSITIVE HYBRID TIP OR POWER TIP
 4.26m RRP £269.99 £219

A VERSATILE DUO
 3 PIECE HYBRID TIP CONTINENTAL ROD + MOMENTUM SLR
 RRP 14ft £429.99 £319
 15ft £429.99 £329

PHOSPHORESCENT GLOW TIP

BORN TO RAISE HELL!
 HELLRAZOR
 4.2m RRP £169.99 £139

AKIOS SURFCASTING REELS

Fishing reels for beach fishing

Fury FX8 Fixed spool reel RRP £74.99 £59	Fireloop Fixed spool reel RRP £109.99 £89.99	The Gumnor GUV GX8 Fixed spool surf reel RRP £149.99 £79	Air Loop R8 / R10 Long cast fixed spool reel R8 - RRP £146.99 £119 10 - RRP £154.99 £125	Utopia CX8 / SX8 Fixed spool reel CX8 - RRP £129.99 £89 SX8 - RRP £169.99 £125	Ironloop AK100 Fixed spool reel RRP £249.99 £199
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AKIOS IRON SPIN 50

FIXED SPOOL REEL

A powerhouse reel in a compact 5000 size body specifically engineered for targeting large predatory fish both from the shore and boat. Whether you're pursuing large catches like Tote, Blue Sharks and Turbot while out on a boat or engaging in lure fishing for tenacious predators in Norway or the Atlantic such as large Cod, Pollack, Amberjacks or Dorado, the AKIOS IRONSPIN 50 is up to the challenge.

RRP £169.99 £149.99

- Colossal 55lb/25kg Drag System
- Tough Metal Alloy Body & Rotor
- Deep & Shallow Spools
- 8+1 Stainless Bearings

DAIWA BOAT REELS

Fishing reels for sea fishing

Sealine S108 Boat reel from £89.99	18 Saltist Boat reel from £239.99	Saltist Level wind reel from £239.99	20 Saltiga LD Single & 2 speed boat reels from £379	20 Saltiga (G) Saltwater spinning reel from £899
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SHIMANO BOAT REELS

Charles Special

TR LD Special 1000/2000 from £124.99	TLD LEVER DRAG Single & 2 Speed - 7 Models from £129.99	TORIUM AHG 5 Models from £179.99	TEKOTA A 6 Models from £189.99	TYRNOs 6 Models from £199.99
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SHIMANO BOAT REELS

SpeedMaster LD II 6 Models from £199.99	TALICA 5 Models from £389.99	OCEA JIGGER Silver - 2 Models from £399.99	OCEA JIGGER 2 Models from £459.99	TIAGRA 4 Models from £549.99
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SHIMANO ELECTRIC PERFORMANCE

AMAZING POWER...

Beastmaster 9000A Electric Reel £999.99	Forcemaster 9000A Electric Reel £899.99	Plays 4000 Electric Reel £549.99	Plays 600 Electric Reel £499.99
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Digital Controls

Snowbee DEEP BLUE BOAT RODS

NEW

Over the years, these rods have been steadily upgraded, but fans of the original Deep Blue range need not worry, as the latest Deep Blue models, have an even lighter, crisper action than their predecessors! Finished in the same lustrous deep blue, with subtle cross-whippings and decals and using lightweight graphite reel seats and chrome-plated stainless steel rings to prevent corrosion. Accurately rated to IGFA line classes and at 7ft. They offer the ideal length for the serious boat angler and include a model to suit all fishing situations.

10201 7ft 7in IGFA 8lbs Class	Butt Cap	RRP £139.99	NOW £119
10209 7ft 7in IGFA 8lbs Class	Butt Cap	RRP £139.99	£119
10202 7ft 7in IGFA 12lbs Class	Butt Cap	RRP £139.99	£119
10205 7ft 7in IGFA 12lbs Class	Butt Cap	RRP £139.99	£119
10203 7ft 7in IGFA 20lbs Class	Gimbal	RRP £149.99	£129
10204 7ft 7in IGFA 30lbs Class	Gimbal	RRP £149.99	£129

10201 - 80lb (4KG) CLASS
 Ultra-sensitive inshore rod, for bass, plaice, brill etc.

10209 - 80lb (4KG) CLASS "S-FLEX"
 Ultra-soft Korean S-Grip tip section, for supreme sensitivity

10202 - 120lb (6KG) CLASS
 Perfect choice for the inshore angler fishing bass etc., & the hardest fighting wrack pollack etc.

10205 - 120lb (6KG) CLASS "S-FLEX"
 ultra-sensitive tip, for heavier bait fishing, turbot, black brown & velvet

10203 - 300lb (136KG) CLASS
 Best "all-rounder" in the range, for inshore fishing for bass etc., & the hardest fighting wrack pollack.

10204 - 300lb (136KG) CLASS
 Ideal for fishing wrecks. Powerful rod great for hauling monster conger & ling out of deep-water.

Vanquish FC SHIMANO

MGL SERIES

Pinnacle of lightweight engineering for finesse anglers seeking the ultimate in performance.

The Vanquish is equipped with the lightest Magnamille Rotor. Perfect balance, lightness and low inertia rotation, produces exceptional performance and awareness.

1000, 2000, 2500, 3000, 4000, 5000

11 Models from £419.99

DAIWA 22 EXIST

Is this the **BEST** spinning reel ever made!

The future of Daiwa Spinning Reels is AIRDRIVE DESIGN. By reducing the weight of rotor, spool & ball assembly, a lighter rotation is achieved. The effortless rotation allows the angler to feel the true joy of trouble free function. This new chapter starts with 22 EXIST.

22 Exist PC LT 2500 G | 22 Exist LT 4000 G
22 Exist LT 2000-P G | 22 Exist LT 5000-C G
22 Exist LT 3000 G

RRP £850-£900 - 5 Models Available from £699

DAIWA BASS LURE RODS

Fishing rods for sea bass fishing

SALTIST - Bass Spinning Rods

- HVF High Volume Fibre
- X45 Technology

8ft 10-35g	£185	NOW £139
8ft 6in 10-35g	£190	NOW £145
9ft 10-35g	£195	NOW £149

SALTIST - Spinning Rods

10ft 14-60g	£170	NOW £129
11ft 6in 28-84g	£170	NOW £129

Whisker Spin - Bass Spinning Rods

Designed to cover the multitude of fishing styles, across lure and bait with monofoil or braided

8ft 10-40g	SOLD OUT
9ft 15-50g	SOLD OUT
10ft 20-60g	SOLD OUT

Sandstorm Bass Spinning Rods

- Premium Carbon Blanks
- Fixed Spool DPS Reel Seat
- Seaguide Deep Drawn Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Ring
- Split EVA Grip Handle

11ft 6in 28-84g	RRP £135	NOW £99.99
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DAIWA SALTWATER LURE REELS

22 EXIST Is this the **BEST** spinning reel ever made! RRP £850-£900 from £699

BG Fixed Spool Reels 7 Models	from £99
BG MAGSEALED Spinning Reels 7 Models	from £139
20 BG MG Fixed Spool Reels 10 Models	from £169
20 SALTIGA (G) Fixed Spool Reels 9 Models	from £849

DAIWA KENZAKI

"Nothing short of superb"

See Angler Review, June 2019

Read the review by **DAVID BARHAM** on our website

Super Kenzaki FS (Fixed Spool) Boat Rod

6-12lb, 6-15lb, 12-20lb, 15-25lb, 20-30lb or 30-50lb
7', 7'6" or 8'

RRP £199 £169.99

8G Magssealed Spinning Reel
7 Models - RRP £195-£245 from £159

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

DOUGLAS SKY G

S6904 SALTWATER FLY ROD

Altogether, you'll find the Douglas SKY G Fly Rod Series offers superb dampening and recovery, near-effortless casting, accuracy and outstanding durability. Innovative top-of-the-line components include: REC Titanium Cerecol stripper guides with zirconia inserts, REC Titanium recoil guides, AAAA for grade coil, a skeletonized aluminum reel seat, double uplocking rings with nylon bushings, and buried blackwood inserts. Includes a plush rod sock and aluminum tube.

9ft: #6 Saltwater £849.99

Length: 9'0ft
Line Weight: 6
Action: Fast
Sections: 4
Weight: 93gram

G-LOOMIS SALTWATER FLY

ASQUITH

Built on Shimano's proprietary Spiral X platform, the Asquith boasts superb power transfer from tip to hand, quick recovery, and increased sensitivity.

ASQ 890 9ft #7 #8 4 Piece	£899.99
ASQ 1090 9ft #9 #10 4 Piece	£899.99
ASQ 1290 9ft #11 #12 4 Piece	£999.99

NRX+

Empowers anglers with confidence-boosting control in less-than-ideal situations.

NRX+ S 790 / 890 / 990 9ft #7 #8 #9 4 Piece	£799.99
NRX+ S 1090 9ft #10 4 Piece	£799.99
NRX+ S 1290 9ft #12 4 Piece	£799.99
NRX+ S 10810-2 8ft 10" #10 2 Piece	£799.99
NRX+ S 12810-2 8ft 10" #12 2 Piece	£799.99

Shimano SALTWATER RODS & REELS

SPECTRE RMX SALTWATER 4PC

With the ever increasing popularity of Saltwater Bass, Bonefish, Carp & Pike Fly fishing, the "Subwater Predator" model is top of the Spectre range.

RRP £249 £199

PRESTIGE G-XS SW SALTWATER

The most powerful in the saltwater series, yet still deceptively light and easy to cast.

9ft #7 - 4 Piece
RRP £549 £499

Also available in 8ft & 10ft #7/9 #9/11 - from £239 #9/10 #10/11 - from £145

XS FLY REELS

The first choice for the best of saltwater Bonefish, Jacky, Permit and smaller Tarpon, or Bass & Pollock.

9ft #10 #10/11 - from £145

SPECTRE FLY REELS

Ultra-lightweight, precision CNC machined aluminium reels for a better rod/bal balance

okuma INSPIRED FISHING SPINNING REELS

TESORO

Tesoro Spinning reels provide anglers with hydro blocking technology best suited for saltwater environments. Features a 100% waterproof, strong and lightweight aluminum body, specially reinforced high-strength brass gears, a high output carbonite drag with Cal's drag grease on a full Dual Force Drag (CFO) system, allowing you to tackle big game fish such as tuna and swordfish.

8000PA SP Low Speed	£341.99
10000PA SP Low Speed	£341.99
14000PA SP Low Speed	£341.99
20000PA SP Low Speed	£363.99

SALINA

Specifically designed for saltwater use, the Salina spinning reels feature Okuma's rigid LITECAST construction design, Dual Force Drag System for extreme stopping power and our proprietary High Density Gearing with a special corrosion resistant coating. Combine this with a high-speed gear ratio and a customized aluminum handle and you have one of the best saltwater fishing reels on the market.

8000 Spinning	£195.89
10000 Spinning	£198.89
14000 Spinning	£198.89
4000H Spin High-Speed	£183.89
5000H Spin High-Speed	£183.89
6000H Spin High-Speed	£187.89

okuma MAKAIRA

Inspired by strength. Constructed from the finest, strongest materials available these are tough and durable spinning reels, especially for big game fish.

SPINNING REELS

MAKIRA MK-1000L Spinning Reel - Left Hand £599

MAKIRA MK-2000LS Spinning Reel - Left Hand £599

MAKIRA MK-3000LS Spinning Reel - Left Hand £649

SHIMANO LURE RODS

STC TRAVEL SPINNING RODS

A travel rod with a transport length of just 58cm, this is a rod you can pack in your suitcase, car, backpack or wherever you want to store it!

9ft 15-40g 5 Piece	£134.99	NOW £99
9ft 20-60g 5 Piece	£149.99	NOW £119
9ft 20-60g 5 Piece	£139.99	NOW £110
2.42m 7m 3-14g 6 Piece Multi Length	£139.99	NOW £110
2.42m 15-40g 6 Piece Multi Length	£144.99	NOW £115
2.73m 20-60g 6 Piece Multi Length	£159.99	NOW £129

LUNAMIS BASS RODS

8ft 6in 6-25g 7-35g 2 Piece	£329.99
9ft 5-21g 6-25g 2 Piece	£349.99
9ft 7-35g 10-45g 2 Piece	£349.99

BASTERRA BASS RODS

7ft 2m LRF 1-11g 2 Piece	£48.99
8ft LRF 3-15g 2 Piece	£54.99
8ft 6-28g 2 Piece	£59.99
9ft 7-35g 12-38g 2 Piece	£69.99
9ft 6in 15-60g 2 Piece	£69.99

SHIMANO BALTWATER LURE REELS

MIRAVEL 10 MODELS from £109.99

SPHEROS SW 3 MODELS from £99.99

SPHEROS SW-A 8 MODELS from £164.99

STRADIC C14+ 2 MODELS from £159.99

ULTEGRA FC 10 MODELS from £129.99

STRADIC FM 16 MODELS RRP £209.99-£229.99

SARAGOSA SW-A 8 MODELS from £199.99

SHIMANO BALTWATER LURE REELS

VANFORD 13 MODELS from £189.99

TWIN POWER FD 11 MODELS from £329.99

TWIN POWER XD 6 MODELS from £369.99

VANQUISH 9 MODELS from £419.99

TWIN POWER SW-C 11 MODELS from £399.99

STELLA 14 MODELS from £599.99

STELLA 14 MODELS from £729.99

DOUGLAS SKY G

S8904 SALTWATER FLY ROD

Altogether, you'll find the Douglas SKY G Fly Rod Series offers superb dampening and recovery, near-effortless casting, accuracy and outstanding durability. Innovative top-of-the-line components include: REC Titanium Cerecol stripper guides with zirconia inserts, REC Titanium recoil guides, AAAA for grade coil, a skeletonized aluminum reel seat, double uplocking rings with nylon bushings, and buried blackwood inserts. Includes a plush rod sock and aluminum tube.

9ft: #8 Saltwater £849.99

Length: 9'0ft
Line Weight: 8
Action: Fast
Sections: 4
Weight: 102gram
Saltwater friendly hard wear

G-LOOMIS IMX-PRO S2 SALTWATER FLY RODS

Roller for pumped performance in salty environments, IMX-PRO V2S actions are tuned for utility in three specific areas: improved tracking in the wind, lifting generous lengths of line before a re-cast, and fish fighting control. G. Loomis engineers designed these versatile actions with goals of power through the bottom half of the rod but, most uniquely, developed a slightly tighter tip to minimize tailing loops and improve tracking and line pick-up. A proprietary blend of technologies - Conduct Core and GLT resin system - provides surplus strength and impact resistance without the extra weight, creating a blank that allows anglers to stay frosty when a "send" becomes a "bend."

9ft #6 4 Piece	£399.99
9ft #7 4 Piece	£399.99
9ft #8 4 Piece	£399.99
9ft #9 4 Piece	£399.99
9ft #10 4 Piece	£399.99
9ft #11 4 Piece	£399.99
9ft #12 4 Piece	£399.99

Scott SALTWATER FLY RODS

Sector 'NZ SPECIAL'

Scott Fly Rod Company introduces the all new Sector series of high performance, hand crafted saltwater fly rods.

Sector rods advance on Scott's award-winning Meridian series to bring you a new level of performance and reliability in saltwater fly rods.

8ft 4in #10 #11 #15 3 Piece	£999
8ft 4in #6 #8 4 Piece	
8ft 10in #7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12 2 Piece	
9ft #6 #7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12 4 Piece	

The Sector New Zealand Special has been developed specifically for chucking everything required to catch trout in gin-clear water and crammed conditions - whether it be nymph rigs, big dry flies - or even streamers. A tireless allrounder!

9ft #6 4 Piece £999

WESTIN®
SCANDINAVIAN

W3 SEABASS 2nd GENERATION

The W3 Seabass 2nd is a super-fast and long-casting powerhouse that meets the demands of the modern sea bass angler. These rods are packed with power, and due to the premium Toraycar® carbon fibers, you still get a true lightweight feeling when fishing, fish, and detecting even the most cautious bites. Use it from the bank or boat, the W3 Seabass 2nd will get the job done no matter the situation.

Reel Seat: VSS
D-Ring Hook Keeper
Guides: LTV guides
Handle: Premium EVA handle
Reinforced with 11 woven carbon
Blank: Toraycar® High Performance Carbon blank

W3 Seabass 2nd generation 2 section with cloth bag

	RRP	NOW
8ft 4in (250cm) 12.42g	£149	£129.99
9ft 1in (273cm) 12.42g	£159	£139.99
10ft 1in (300cm) 12.42g	£169	£149.99

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

G.Loomis

BASS LURE RODS

UK APPROVED DEALER

IMX-PRO MAG BASS CASTING RODS

Bass casting rods designed for anglers that prefer the "Classic" Mag Bass actions. Full cork grips and Fuji reel seats with Fuji K-frame guides provide positive grip and balance along with positive control. Incredible performance means extreme sensitivity, ultra-light weight, excellent balance and unbelievable power and strength!

IMX Pro Mag Bass 6ft 6in 7-18g 1 Piece...£289.99
IMX Pro Mag Bass 6ft 6in 7-21g 1 Piece...£289.99

IMX-PRO BASS SPINNING JIG RODS

Bass spinning rods designed for anglers that prefer the "Classic" Spin Jig actions. Full cork grips and Fuji reel seats with Fuji K-frame guides provide positive grip and balance along with positive control. Incredible performance means extreme sensitivity, ultra-light weight, excellent balance and unbelievable power and strength!

IMX Pro Mag Bass 6ft 2-9g 1 Piece...£289.99
IMX Pro Mag Bass 7ft 4-10g 1 Piece...£289.99

SAVAGE GEAR
It's a savage world

SALTWATER LURE REELS

SG556

Built with a strong, lightweight aluminum body and a Carbon Reinforced Composite rotor, the reel is designed to deliver top performance time and time again. Features 6+1 sealed steel ball bearings, high-performance carbon drag system and our proprietary Dura Grease - all of which combine to help make the reel saltwater resistant.

SG568

A reel with a unique coating that can easily withstand 500 hours of being sprayed with saltwater in testing. Savage Gear's new SG500 reel, complete with SG500 coating, is saltwater resistant in other ways too. Features sealed 6+1 steel ball bearings, sealed drag system, lightweight and strong aluminum body and Carbon Reinforced Composite rotor.

8 Models available - 4000, 5000, 6000, 8000, 10000, 14000, 14000H, 18000
RRP £154.99-£189.99 from £89.99

SAVAGE GEAR
It's a savage world

BASS LURES

LOTS OF REDUCTIONS THIS MONTH...
Working with Henry Gilbey, Savage have produced an amazing new range of soft plastics. - Read his blog on our website

Gravity Stick Puddletail Bass Lure - 14cm 15g - 6pc RRP £9.99 £7.99
Gravity Stick Puddletail Bass Lure - 14cm 15g - 6pc RRP £9.99 £7.99
Gravity Stick Puddletail Bass Lure - 14cm 15g - 6pc RRP £9.99 £7.99

Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10cm 30g Sinking RRP £8.49 £7.49
Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10.5cm 35g Sinking RRP £8.99 £7.99
Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10cm 30g RRP £8.49 £7.49

#6/0 Weedless Hooks 6pc - RRP £7.49 £6.99
3g - 4pc - RRP £3.49 £2.99

SAVAGE GEAR
It's a savage world

LURE FISHING NETS

Pro Finzee Floating Landing Nets
The ideal Bass net for fishing off the rocks or on the beach - designed for lure fishing and fish care - great for Catch and Release.

Full Frame Net 120-200cm
Super strong landing net, designed to land big predator fish.

Pro Folding Telescopic Net
Extra large rubber mesh net bag, great for lure fishing & fish care.

Pro Folding Landing Net
Strong, lightweight folding net with rubber mesh bag.

Full Frame Landing Net
Super strong landing net, designed to land big predator fish.

Medium RRP £24.99 £19.99
Large RRP £31.99 £26.99

SAVAGE GEAR
It's a savage world

BASS FISHING PRODUCTS

Waterproof Rollup Backpack RRP £69.99 £48.99
Waterproof Rollup Backpack RRP £69.99 £48.99
Specialist Backpack RRP £69.99 £48.99

Flip Wallet Rig & Lure Bag RRP £8.99 £6.99
Performance Winter Boot £69.99

Waterproof Jacket RRP £129.99 £99.99
Salt Pack-Lite Jacket RRP £129.99 £99.99
Shield Gloves RRP £19.99 £16.99
Protec Gloves RRP £19.99 £16.99
Alu Pro Pliers RRP £14.99 £12.49
Rollup Pouch RRP £14.99 £12.49
Zipper Wallet 1 RRP £19.99 £16.49
Zipper Wallet 2 RRP £19.99 £16.49

RAPALA

BASS LURES

X-Rap Long Cast Shallow Lure 9cm - 26g £12.99
Maxrap Walk N Roll Lure 10cm - 13g £12.99
Maxrap Walk N Roll Lure 13cm - 29g £14.99

Jointed Lure - 9cm £9.99
Jointed Lure - 11cm £9.99
Jointed Lure - 13cm £10.99
Silver Lure - 13cm £12.99

SHIMANO

LURES

EXSENCE SHALLOW ASSASSIN FLASH BOOST LURES

An innovative jerkbait that is equipped with a unique 'Flash Boost' feature, making this lure a one-of-a-kind for inshore spinning for seabass and bluefish. Flash Boost feature increases 'flash' from the lure even when stationary. Equipped with AR-C system for increased casting distance and accuracy. Floating - diving depth 0.3m

T00 Malwasli 9.9cm - 14g £16.99
T03 Red Head 9.9cm - 14g £16.99
T04 Candy 9.9cm - 14g £16.99
T01 Bora 9.9cm - 14g £16.99

T05 Purple 9.9cm - 14g £16.99
T06 Black 9.9cm - 14g £16.99
T07 Green Gold 9.9cm - 14g £16.99
T02 Katakuchi 9.9cm - 14g £16.99

WESTIN® SEABASS ACCESSORIES

W6 B Braided Line 135m - from £24.99
W10 13 Coastal Braided Line - 150m - £44.99
W3 Street Sling Medium - £29.99
W3 Quick Bag Small - £44.99
W3 CR Floating Landing Nets from £44.99
W3 CR Adjustable Landing Net from £39.99
W3 Street Bag Pro Medium - £54.99
W3 Lure Loader Small - £59.99
W3 Lure Loader Large - £59.99
W6 Roll-Top Backpack 25L - £69.99
W6 Roll-Top Backpack 40L - £79.99
W6 Wading Backpack £124.99
W6 Boat Lumbag Large - £134.99
W6 Roll-Top Duffel Bag Large - £109.99
W6 Duffel Bag X-Large - £149.99
W6 Dry Couch 23x31cm - £10.99
Forceps, Scissors, Pliers, Shears etc £8.99-£29.99

G.Loomis

LURE RODS

2023 WINNER

GLS RXR + JIG & WORM SPINNING
Jeff Gustafson's wins the 2023 Bassmaster Classic using the RXR + Jig & Worm 7' 3" - 6-12lb
7ft 3in 6-12lb 1 Piece...£449

GLX JIG & WORM CASTING
Extra length helps extend casting range and provides more positive hooksets in deep water.
6ft 10in 2-9lb 1 Piece...£299

GLX JIG & WORM CASTING
GLX is still one of the lightest, most sensitive high-performance rods G.Loomis make.
7ft 11in 8-21lb 1 Piece...£289

IMX HOTSHOT
Surprising power in such a small package, very sensitive and lightweight.
7ft 6in 7-14g 2 Piece...£199

IMX STEELHEAD SIDE DRIFT
Soft and sensitive enough to allow you to react before they drop the bait.
8ft 8in 2-14g 2 Piece...£219

IMX INSHORE SPINNING
Multi-taper technology reduces weight, increases sensitivity.
7ft 8-17lb 1 Piece...£139
7ft 6in 8-14lb 1 Piece...£139
7ft 6in 8-17lb 1 Piece...£139

SAVAGE GEAR
It's a savage world

SVENDEEN TEAM UP WITH HENRY GILBEY & MADE GROUP

Henry Gilbey & Made Group have designed this amazing range of Bass rods, one of the most highly anticipated launches of thousands of hours of testing & casting from the shore in various conditions have gone into the development of these rods & lures.

SG552 ALL-ROUND RODS - 2 PIECE

	RRP	NOW
8ft 3in 7-25g	£289.99	£269.99
8ft 3in 10-35g	£289.99	£269.99
8ft 3in 20-40g	£289.99	£269.99

SG554 PRECISION LURE SPECIALIST RODS - 2 PIECE

	RRP	NOW
8ft 3in 7-25g	£289.99	£269.99
8ft 3in 10-35g	£289.99	£269.99
8ft 3in 20-40g	£289.99	£269.99

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NOVEMBER 2023

THIS MONTH: TOP TIDES & TACTICS FOR SHORE AND UPTIDE COD

SHORE COD

November, arguably, offers the most consistent chance of a shore cod. This winter should see some fish in the 6lb plus bracket left over from the 3 and 4lb fish that some regions saw during the winter of 22/23.

TIDE TALK

The bigger spring tides, with their more powerful tide flow, pull in larger numbers of cod tight inshore, especially in rougher seas. The best cod tides this month fall from the 10th to the 18th with the 12th to the 17th looking prime. Later in the month tides from the 23rd to the 30th are good, with the peak tides for cod being between the 25th and 28th.

On surf beaches, cod show from low water, but the peak feeding period is generally the middle hours of the flood when the tide flow is strongest. High water slack can be slow. Ebb marks can be few and far between unless there are rocky reefs from the mid tide area to low water and beyond to hold the fish, as they tend to move out to deep water quickly

otherwise. On rough ground beaches, it's much the same with the first hour of the flood seeing the odd fish, but most bites coming during the mid-tide period. If you can find rock ledges or points with direct access coming in from the sea and giving into deeper water, then ebb fish are also possible.

It's no secret that in most areas the best of the cod fishing will be during the hours of darkness, so again a tide that starts to flood and has high tide both in the dark will invariably fish best. This even applies in coloured water.

TACTICS

12 to 14ft rods casting 6 or 7ozs with a multiplier reel holding around 250yds of 20lb mono and 60lb shock leader, or a fixed spool reel loaded with 30lb braid, and an 80lb braid shock leader cover all clean and mixed ground fishing.

In heavy, rough seas, bigger reels with 30lb mono and a shock leader or 50/60lb braid straight through give the power to muscle fish away from snags. The best rig is a simple



pulley rig ending in either a single 4/0 hook, or two 4/0 hooks rigged Pennel style.

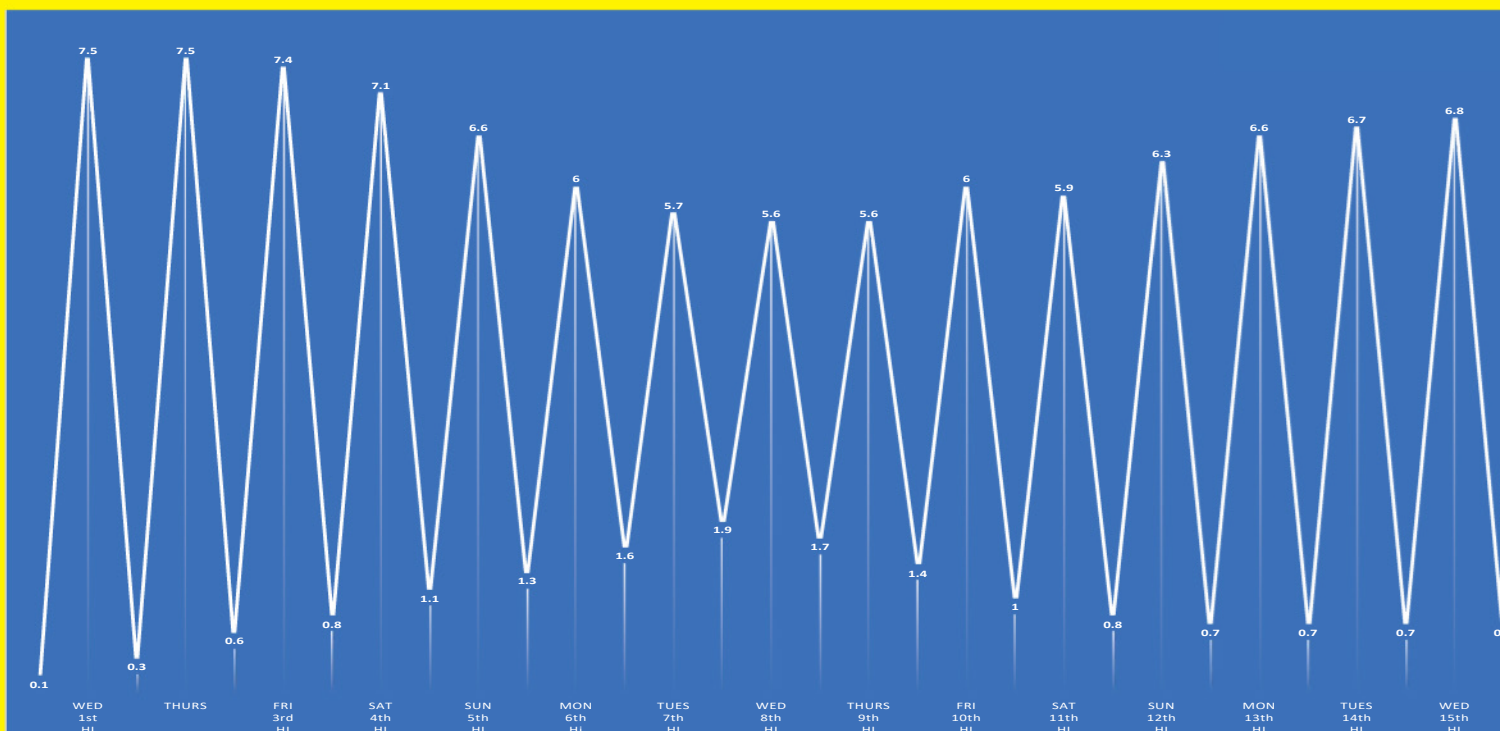
Lug is the number one bait, especially black lug tipped with blow lug. Also tip the black lug with ragworm, mussel, crab or a strip of squid. In the rougher ground, mussel or frozen or fresh peeler crab work well alongside the worm.

HOTSPOTS

The Northeast scars and rock ledges, Holderness Coast, Chesil Beach, both sides of the Bristol Channel, Mersey Estuary.

OTHER POSSIBLE SPECIES

Bass, whiting, outside chance of a thornback, strap conger, huss.



UPTIDE COD

November is recognised as the true start regards winter uptide casting for cod within our bigger estuaries and other inshore areas where tide runs are fast and powerful.

TIDE TALK

The best of the cod fishing will be during the tides rising towards the biggest springs. These fall from the 9th to the 12th. The bigger, faster spring tides falling on the 13th to the 17th. These will also produce good catches but expect the feeding period to be more concentrated either side of the middle flood period with the third hour of the flood seeing bites ease away for a short time. The tides decreasing in size on the 18th, 19th and 20th will still produce fish, but expect catches to fall away quickly as the tides decrease. The tides start to build again on the 22nd, with the biggest tides falling from the 26th to the 30th. This latter group of spring tides are smaller, and these can often give the best of the fishing.

The cod like some tide run, so expect the bulk of the bites to occur from one hour after low water to 1.5hrs before high water. Cod will be caught during the ebb tide, again during the middle flow period, but as is so often the case, the ratio of bites is likely to be less than it was during the flood as the fish drop back quickly.

Overcast days fish better than bright sunny days, even in well coloured water.

TACTICS

Uptide rods 9ft 6in in length and casting up to 10ozs are now often fished with a big 8000 sized fixed spool reel loaded with 40lb braid line straight through. The braid catches less tide pressure and gives better bite indication and hook ups.

Use a simple sliding ledger flowing trace rig with a hook length of 30lb fluorocarbon between 3 and 4ft long ending with two 4/0 Viking pattern hooks rigged Pennel style for increased hook ups. Lead weights need to be 6 to 8ozs with long fixed grip wires and long wire tails to anchor in deep as line is released to form that essential downtide bow in the line.

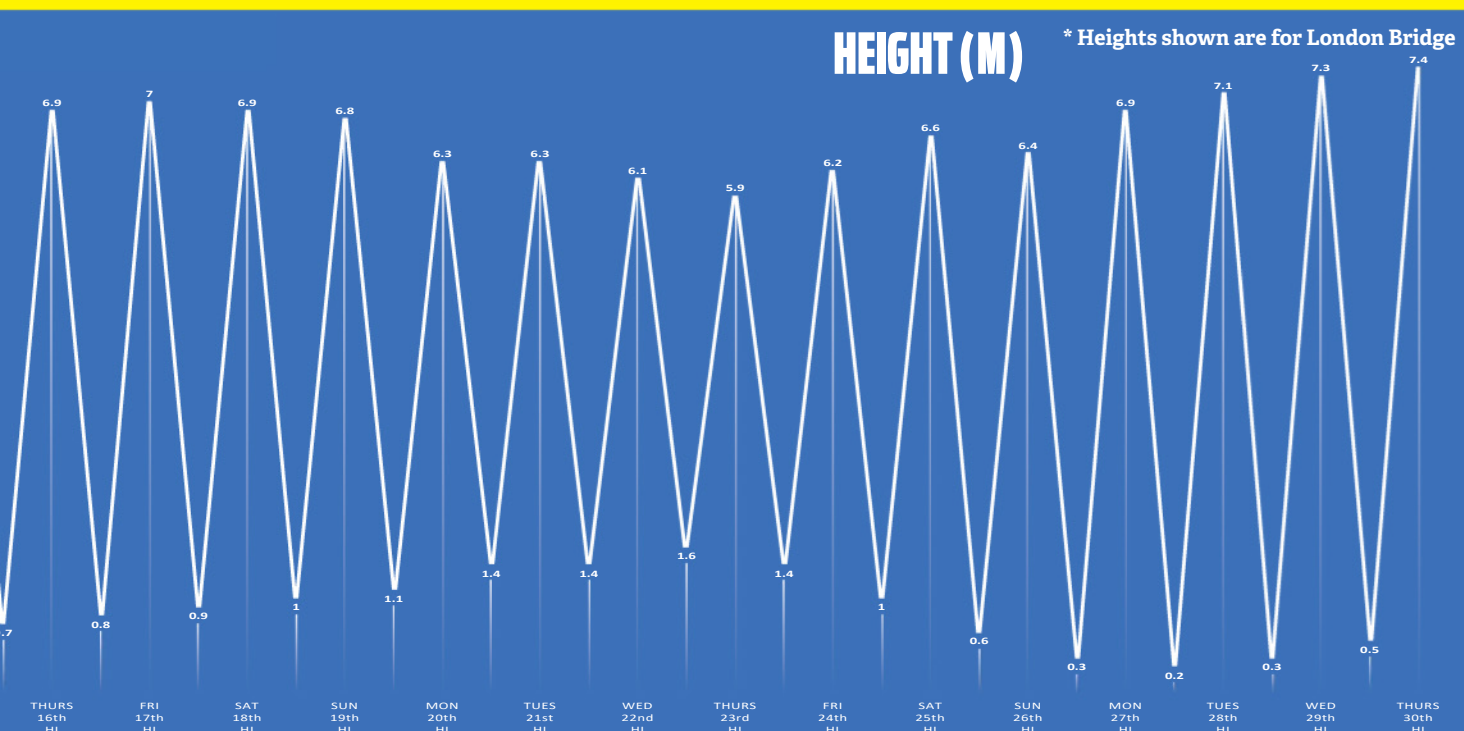
Baits are black and blow lug, ragworm, whole squid and fresh or frozen peeler crab. Tipping black lug with a long strip of squid or adding ragworm, mussel or crab will often induce more bites. And fish big baits up to 10-inches long by forcing old bait up the hook length and adding fresh below.

HOTSPOTS

Yorkshire Coast, Thames Estuary, Bristol Channel, Mersey Estuary.

OTHER POSSIBLE SPECIES

Strap conger, huss, bass, rays.





Tales *from the tideline* **AUTUMN DREAMS**

With the changing of the seasons Simon Smith's mind turns to imagining the fishing opportunities autumn brings with it

I don't know if it's due to our 'at-your-fingertip' ability to look things up in an encyclopaedic instant via our smartphones, whether it's borne from our sanitised, social media-worthy rendering of life through pictures, or even if it's the result of something else altogether that I'm simply missing. Whatever it may be, it has led to the increasingly restrictive development of a never-ending need to quantify, classify and pigeonhole almost every single facet of life.

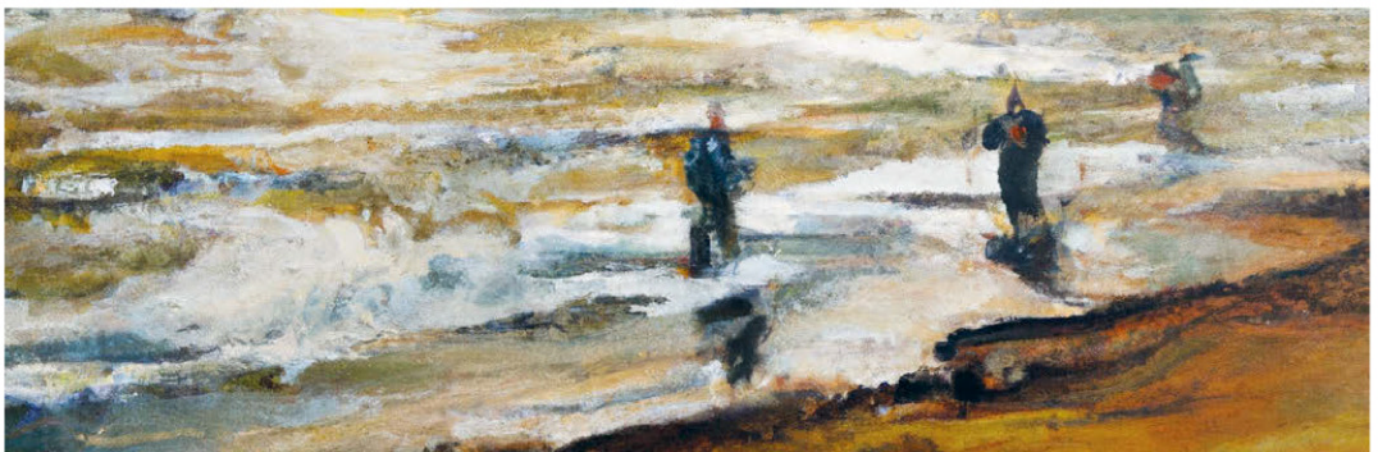
I'm not talking here of science, of the discovery of chemical elements or the biological taxonomies that allow us to understand the living world that surrounds us. These are, of course, essential for understanding our environment and our place within it. No, I'm thinking about the fact that we seem to have swung drastically

toward some paranoid use of labels as though to sanitise the unpredictability from life and to contain it within strict and clear limits so that we can gawp and understand in black-and-white terms.

This is no clearer than in the way we look at weather. Gone are the days, it seems, of looking at the clouds or the colour of the sky and knowing that, within a day, there would be rain spattering the windows. Dismissed by much of modern society as old wives' tales, these weather 'readings' have been replaced by hyperbolic terms such as 'deadly heatwave' and 'snow bomb', and by an uncomfortable overfamiliarity, typified by the recent trend of having to name storms. No hurricanes, these; not typhoons nor tornados, these are the names of UK storms in which we simply had a bit of wind and some rain before returning to more temperate weather. Now, instead of

having truly noteworthy events such as 'the 1703 storm' or 'The Great Blizzard', we have had to become acquainted with the likes of Storm Sam and Storm Nelly. So numerous are they that they populate the forecasts like a cast of eccentric characters who shunt us on through the ridiculous, doing much to water down the elemental, raw nature of weather and, more importantly, our relationship with it, particularly at the turn of the seasons.

Thankfully, as anglers, we remain somewhat in tune with not only the weather but also the seasonal changes around us so that, as we enter what the countryside writer John Moore called "... the slow languishing days between summer and autumn... along woodsidess so silent that you can hear the first leaves fall", and we read nature's signs for ourselves, our mind-set instinctively changes and we begin to prepare for what comes next.



First come the little things. As I step outside and start to cut back in the garden, despite the sun on my arms and head, every now and then I feel that ever-so-gentle brush of a breeze at the base of my neck, a soft passer-by bringing just the slightest whisper of a chill to suggest that the turn of the year is ready to begin. The spiders' webs draped over the bushes were once taut, and shone bejewelled with rain and dew in the mornings, but now sag wearily, carrying their fragmentary loads of leaf detritus, the brown and yellow scraps of summer's decay.

I know that, should I wish to pick any more blackberries, I'll need to do it over the next couple of weeks as they are at full ripeness now and will soon start to turn and die back, so I walk the hills and gather my last loads as, overhead, the first honking arrowheads of geese cut the air. Soon, it will be time for the September spring tides, the earliest of the sweet chestnuts and the onset of those equinoctial storms which are just around the corner; I don't need to be introduced to

them by name to know that they will soon visit, because they always do. This is the way it always has been and the way it always will be and, just as I know that these seasonal changes are coming, so does my mind flip over to fishing's autumnal preoccupations.

As the clock thinks about creeping back, so will the darker evenings see the arrival of the whiting and pouting shoals along the flat, sandy beaches of my stretch of the coast. First comes the vanguard, in ones and twos, steadily increasing until, short weeks later, a full-scale invasion, voracious and insatiable, descends upon the twilight shorelines. As these shoals proliferate in the shallows, so too will it be the time for big bass. The last of the residents and the first of the migratory fish, all will be on the hunt, cruising the shallow surfines, rifling pier pilings and ghosting between rocks, where a mackerel head and guts or a favourite lure may tempt that lunker of a lifetime.

Finally, the ears of sea anglers everywhere will prick up and listen out for the first

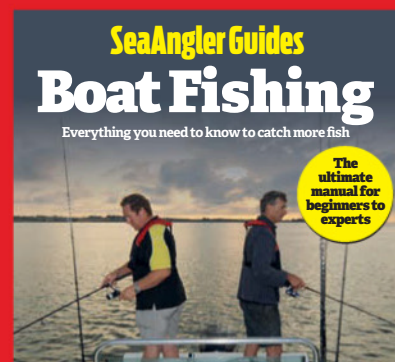
murmurs of the name that so many wait to hear: cod, the cornerstone of all winter shore fishing in this country and further afield. Despite the massive decline in numbers of cod and codling over the last 50 years or so, the name is still muttered with anticipation and more than a touch of reverence, enough to kick-start life into the sea angling community. Baits will be foraged and dug, frozen and preserved; line will be changed, thermals checked, rigs retied and any number of other preparations, or variations of them, that have taken place since before memory and reckoning.

Forget the limits and the categories, put aside so much need for fact and boundaries; autumn is upon us. This is a time for dreaming and for hoping, for imagining that whatever has not yet been possible in our angling lives might, just might, come true and be made real this time around.

I don't want to know what comes next, nor do I want to measure it. I want to imagine it. ■

“Soon, it will be time for the September spring tides, the earliest of the sweet chestnuts and the onset of those equinoctial storms which are just around the corner; I don't need to be introduced to them by name to know that they will soon visit, because they always do”

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HALF A CENTU

The Bass Anglers' Sportfishing Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. In part one of a feature on the history of the organisation, Geoff Gonella looks back at some of the history, activity and people in the early years of BASS



The BASS founding members

THAT FIRST MEETING

Picture the scene – 75 bass anglers converging on Weymouth for an open meeting about the future of bass angling. It's spring 1973, and for some the night before is a long one, including four guys from Kent and Sussex – Brian Harris (Editor of 'Angling'), Terry Hill and David Greenough (Art Director and Advertising Manager of 'Angling'), and John Darling, the well-known columnist, author and general bass nut. They drove through the night in a camper van from London, no doubt to the strains of the car radio and 'Angie' by the Rolling Stones, 'Money' by Pink Floyd and 'Band on the Run' by Wings.

Meanwhile Clive Gammon drove from his native south Wales and had a hotel bed to look forward to. Others had even further to travel, including Alan Stonelake from Lancashire and David Hill from Birmingham. All had one thing

in common – a deep concern about the future of bass; commercial fishermen had found huge shoals over deep offshore banks and reefs and were hauling them up by the hundredweight for a market that was starting to like the taste of bass.

There was no minimum landing size, bass were appearing on the fishmonger's slab in all sizes. This fuelled a surge in demand, with amateurs setting gill nets, small boats using all manner of nets to round-up schoolies and anglers taking home all or most of the bass they caught. There was a lust for bass, and the bass anglers of the day were getting concerned about what the future held for this fish, and rightly so.

From an idea by Dick Downes, the Isle of Wight skipper of a shark charter boat, the meeting was arranged by him and Jim Churchouse (secretary of Weymouth SAC), Clive Gammon, Brian Harris and John Hockaday (Weymouth tackle dealer).

With 75 people present in the Weymouth SAC clubhouse, it started with John Hockaday giving an outline of possible items for discussion – which won him acclaim and the job of Secretary and Treasurer.

Next was a talk by Kevin Linnane, of the Irish Inland Fisheries Trust, about the Irish research into bass spawning, slow growth, maturity sizes and information on the effects of over-fishing bass in the Mediterranean. And so the Society was born with the following objectives: "The aims of this Society shall be to develop and improve the interest and techniques of angling for bass, and to encourage conservation and research of the species throughout the British Isles." This statement, more-or-less, stands true to this day, although instead of conserving the few stocks that there are, we now believe in restoration of bass stocks to their former levels, followed by effective sustainable management. So, for 'conservation' read 'restoration and sustainability'.

RY OF B.A.S.S

The meeting elected Brian Harris as temporary Chairman and a committee tasked with electing a Chairman and Vice Chairman at its first meeting. The committee was Dick Downes, Mike North, Clive Gammon, Brian Harris, Trevor Housby, Peter Grundel, John Stonelake, David Hill, Roy Davis and David Jupp. It was also agreed that the Society shall be open to individuals only, with eight trophies awarded for eight categories of specimen bass.

There was discussion on whether to have a bag limit for members, but this was inconclusive, so the following was agreed and incorporated into the 'Rules of Conduct': 'Members are invited to return bass measuring less than 15 inches from nose to fork of tail. Two or three bass a day would be considered a reasonable bag limit for the pot.'

It was also agreed to have a society badge, with a badge bar system whereby members can receive recognition for catching bass in the various categories. It was also proposed to set up area representatives round the bass-holding areas of Great Britain and Ireland. Their primary function would be to report bass catches in their areas, and all matters relating to the society's conservation drive, which was directed at commercial netting, the taking of immature fish and pollution.

In 1974 the first committee meeting was held and the following appointments were made: Chairman - Clive Gammon; Vice Chairman - Mike North; Secretary, Treasurer & Records Officer - Roy Davis and Committee: David Downes, Brian Harris, Trevor Housby, Peter Grundel, John Hockaday, David Jupp, David Hill, John Stonelake, Peter Reay and J. Head.

THE NAME

I have often wondered who first thought of the acronym 'BASS' which stands for 'Bass Anglers' Sportfishing Society'. Does anybody know? Answers please to the Editor.

Our Patron was Lord Boothby, appointed in 1976. For those not familiar with the lifestyle of this politician, I'll leave you to read about it on Wikipedia. It's difficult to find out what connection Lord Boothby had with bass angling or bass conservation. Whoever justified him and got him signed up is probably recorded deep in the committee minute books. Perhaps one day a keen researcher will find the background to this strange appointment.

THE FIRST AGM

This was held in March 1975. The commitment of the inaugural meeting was endorsed with a decision to regionalise the Society and set it up with some guidelines. John Hockaday was presented with a gold badge for his services in the formation of the Society.



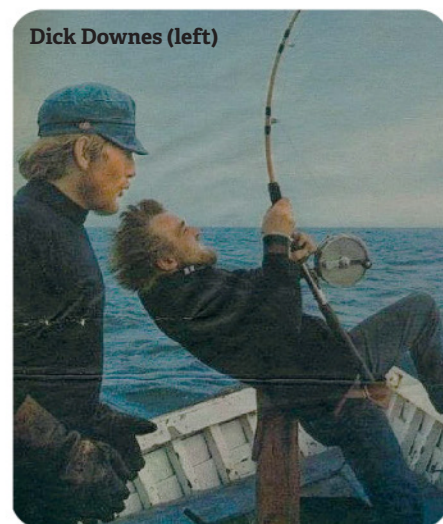
Founding chairman Clive Gammon



Kevin Linnane



Committee member Trevor Housby



Dick Downes (left)

THE EARLY DAYS

It must have been difficult in the early years. Among the first members were several well-known sea anglers who brought with them experience, enthusiasm and high hopes for early success in the negotiation of protective measures. When that failed to happen most left, and for some years there were many changes to the Officers and Committee members. For its survival through those difficult early years, the Society owes much to Geoff Knight, John Hockaday and Jim Churchouse. The 1977 AGM must have been interesting, with Digger Derrington resigning on the spot and walking out over a rumpus about whether BASS members should enter 'catch & kill' competitions or not!

STABILITY

The early 1980s brought some stability, with the improving magazine being an important factor. The late 1980s was another period of change: Bob Spurgeon succeeded the long-serving Chairman Geoff Knight. Tony Harrison became Acting Editor/Secretary, then Editor with John Morgan as Secretary. Dave Cooling became Treasurer, aided later by his wife Di. The new post of Catch Recorder was taken up by Malcolm Brindle. There was another change of Editor when Tony stood down, so Bob Spurgeon and John Morgan took it on jointly, on top of their existing commitments as Chairman and Secretary. By the end of 1995 these six officers, along with the late Harry Parham, plus Diane Rawles, had between them clocked-up nearly 100 years of dedicated service to the Society. Members owe them much. ■



■ Keep up to date with BASS through its blog on www.ukbass.com or on Facebook or Twitter.



SEA BREAM

MIKE MILLMAN looks into the history of the British record list of nine species of bream in UK waters

RECORD BREAKERS

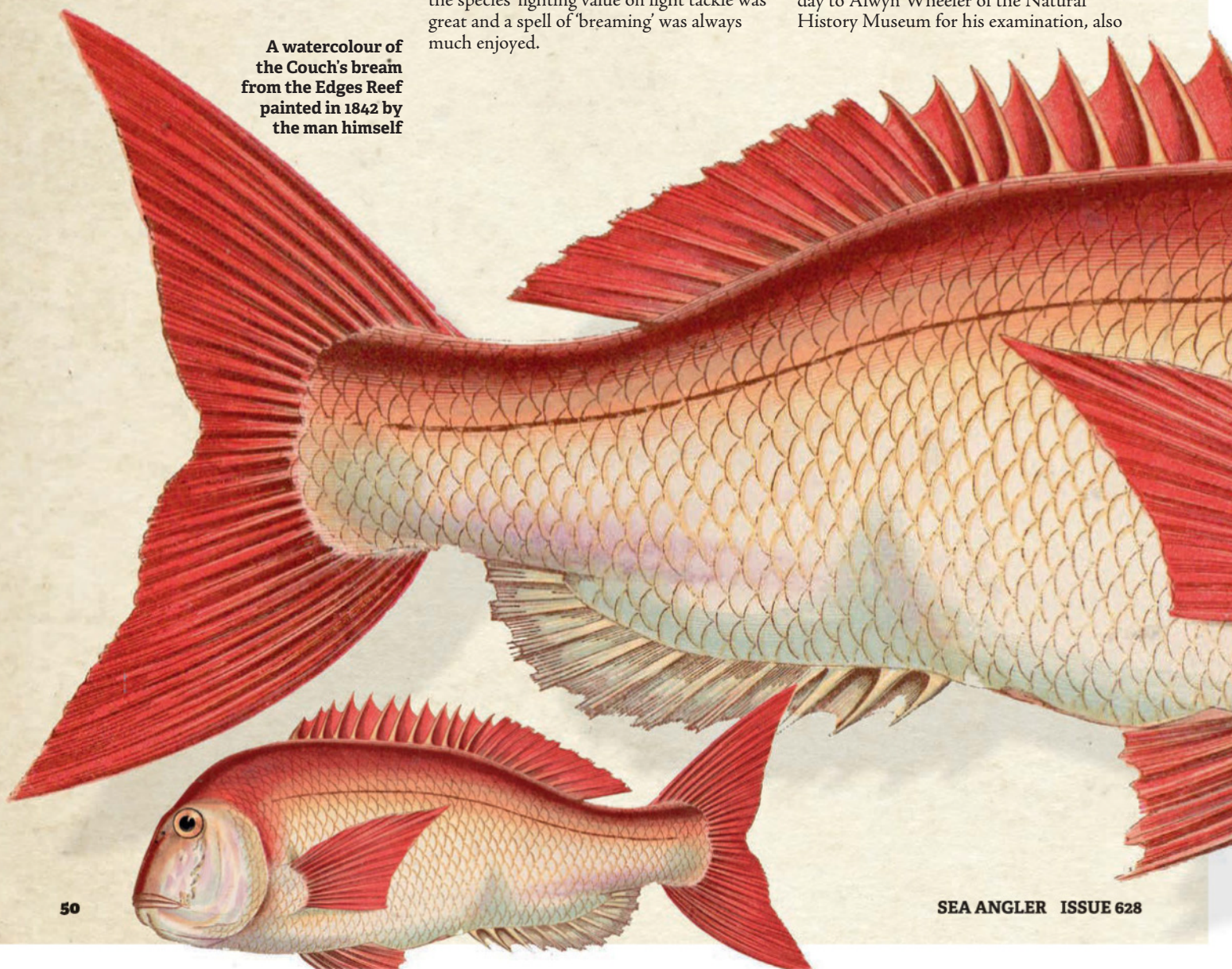
I had just begun working on this feature when Paul Cottell, the Angling Trust's Wyvern division records officer, rang to say that two superb gilthead bream, both shore caught, had been entered for the division's June and July "Fish of the Month" award. The biggest weighing 9lb 9oz 4dr from Salcombe was by Plymouth angler Dave Horrill, a personal best in the shore category. The other of 8lb 5oz 12dr taken

from the Plymouth Sound shore by Stephen King was also a personal best. This excellent start to the exotic bream season is a welcome indication that great catches can be expected.

In the 1980s when it mysteriously began to leave the waters of the Western English Channel and Atlantic Cornwall the red bream, with the exception of mackerel, had been the most numerous species encountered by boat anglers. Never a really big fish a five pounder was relatively rare but the species' fighting value on light tackle was great and a spell of 'breaming' was always much enjoyed.

The history of catches has two specimens of unusual weight: a 7½ pounder at Cornwall's Hatt Rock in July 1925 by Arthur Bell and 49 years later a monster of 9lb 8oz 12dr taken at a wreck in the same area. I recall accompanying Brian Reynolds and his immense fish to the laboratory of the Marine Biological Association on Plymouth Hoe where the positive identification was carried out. I did the pictures on Plymouth Hoe and the fish was dispatched later that day to Alwyn Wheeler of the Natural History Museum for his examination, also

A watercolour of the Couch's bream from the Edges Reef painted in 1842 by the man himself





John Garlick's black bream of 6lb 14oz 4dr

on behalf of the British Record Rod Caught Fish Committee. There the record stands, possibly never to be beaten.

BLACK BREAM has a record history stretching back to 1935 for a fish of 6lb 5oz taken in the Menai Straits in October of that year by a junior angler named M. Brown. Post war on the formation of the Record Fish Committee the catch underwent detailed scrutiny and it was replaced in favour of a Skerries Banks specimen of 6lb 1oz caught in September 1969 by FW Richards. It remained a record until 1973 when JLD Atkins, who was fishing the eastern Blackstone Reef off the estuary of the River Dart, had a fish of 6lb 7¼oz. In 1977





A Couch's caught at the Eddystone Reef from Malcolm Jones' Sea Angler



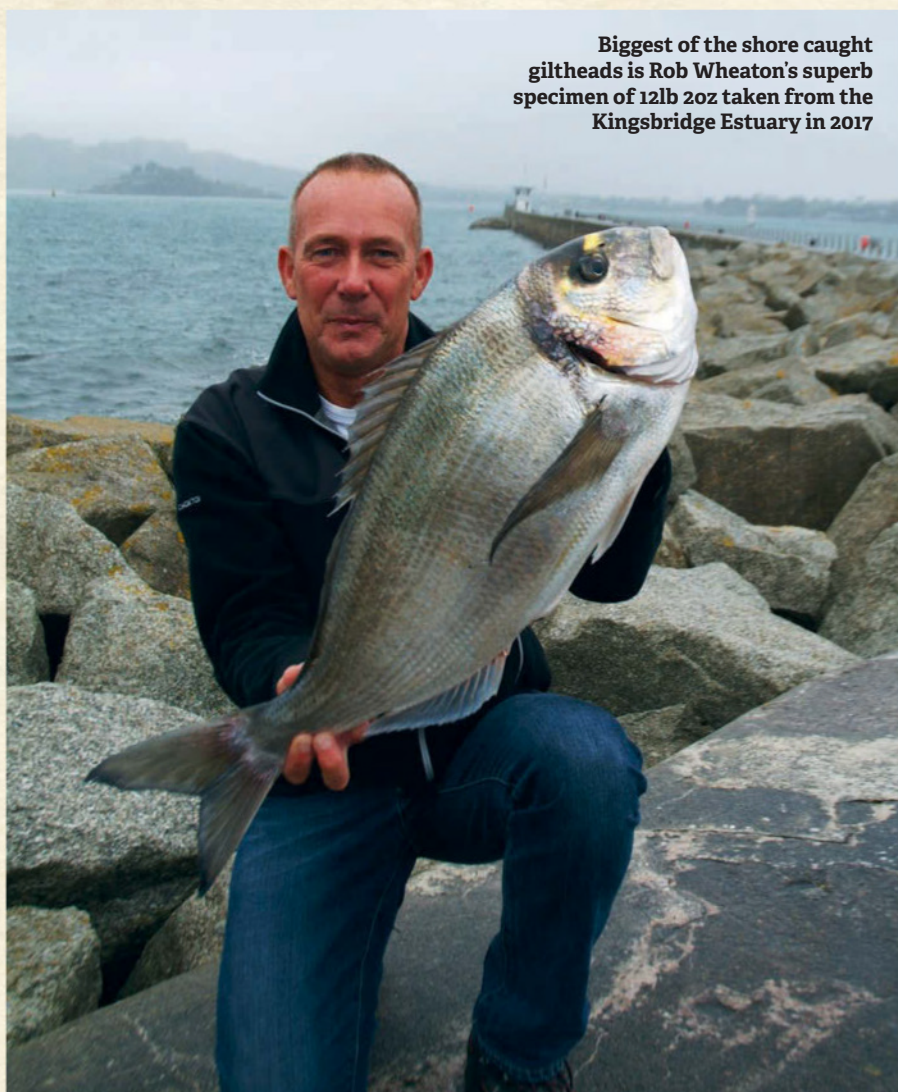
The two-banded bream is a species awaiting acceptance as a British record

on the quayside at Torquay I photographed John Garlick's Lyme Bay wreck fish of 6lb 14oz 4dr, which still stands. He fished from the Girl Alison owned and skippered by Eric Endicott who had great success in that era. The shore record is a superb 6lb 8oz set in 2001 by Rosanne Guille from the harbour wall at Sark.

COUCH'S BREAM For its origins in UK waters we must travel back in time to November 1842 to a reef called The Edges three miles south of Cornwall's Polperro where a small boat fisherman using a hand line caught a fish that was not like anything he had seen previously. To gain the reward of a shilling, a sum that was always on offer for unusual species by naturalist Jonathan Couch, the captor took it to his cottage in Polperro that still bears his name. It was also a new species to Couch and he named the 6lb specimen after himself.

He was a man of many parts including that of a water colourist and the picture he did appears in Volume 2 of his much acclaimed History of the Fishes of the British Islands, of which my four volumes are dated 1853. In his time he painted over 200 depictions, each something of an accurate masterpiece. Many of them were from fish brought to him in a freshly caught state by 'shilling seekers'.

It was not until 1995 that the Couch's bream entered the British record list at a moderate 1lb 10oz off Guernsey. Two years later the record returned to Cornwall for Andrew Drysdale who was fishing a reef in Padstow Bay from the Newquay boat Che Sara Sara owned and skippered by David Trebilcock. The fish weighed 4lb 13oz and remained in place until 2001 when Stephen



Biggest of the shore caught gilthead is Rob Wheaton's superb specimen of 12lb 2oz taken from the Kingsbridge Estuary in 2017

The boat record gilthead bream of 10lb 2oz caught at Salcombe by Roger Simcox who has the good fortune to live within yards of the Kingsbridge Estuary. This was the second time he had broken the record. In 1989 he had a fish of 9lb 8oz



GILTHEAD BREAM entered the British record list in 1970 at 11lb 8oz. It was caught off the dock wall at Hayle basin in West Cornwall. Since then the weight has steadily improved, notably for fish from the balmy waters of Salcombe and Kingsbridge areas at South Devon, where in 2015 local angler Roger Simcox boated a specimen of 10lb 2oz that still stands; while that of the shore is a magnificent 12lb 2oz established in 2015, also at Salcombe by Plymouth's Rob Wheaton. He is no stranger to the species as concentrated fishing has produced many fish of high quality for him.

PANDORA BREAM 1997 was the year Newquay's Chris Stone set the boat record with a fish of 3lb 6oz 12dr, another success for Che Sara Sara in the Padstow Bay area. Four years later Cornishman Phillip Jewell, who was fishing the Helford estuary, set the shore record at 1lb 8oz 7dr.

BOGUE / WHITE BREAM Among other varieties of bream that have a UK record is the Bogue, a species that does not look anything like a bream of which several have been caught at the Eddystone Reef, the heaviest at 1lb 13oz in 1981 by Ken McBride. The Guernsey shore yielded a fish of 1lb 15oz 4dr for S Torode to set the record in 1978.

Another is the white sea bream, the record being 3lb 3oz 2dr by Jason Touzel, established off the west coast of Jersey in 2018.

TWO BANDED BREAM Although still to be officially accepted as a record this variety common in Spanish waters is the only example to come through Biscay to the English Channel.

RAYS BREAM Off far away Scotland's Bara Head in 1978 John Holland established the boat record for this variety at 6lb 3oz 13dr. An even bigger specimen of 7lb 15oz 12dr was caught at Crimdon Beach, Hartlepool, by George Walker back in 1967. I have photographed two examples of this rare species, one a boat capture near the Eddystone, the other weighing 5lb was found in a rock pool at Plymouth's Barbican. Famed charter skipper 'JJ' McVicar took it to the Plymouth Aquarium where it survived two days.

As temperatures rise more Mediterranean species can be expected to become British records. In 1846 a Dentex bream 2.5ft in length and weighing 25lb was sold on the Falmouth fish-market and in 1851 an example 4.5 long and weighing 38lb was sold at the same place. ■



Ken McBride's Bogue of 1lb 13oz taken at the Eddystone Reef in 1981

Condict, who was fishing from the same boat at the Quies Reef also in Padstow Bay, took a fish that had a one ounce advantage.

Other Couch's followed and in 2011 fishing off Guernsey Richard Le Prevost established the current record of 9lb 5oz 3dr. There is still room for improvement as a whopping specimen of over 19lb was caught in the Straits of Gibraltar and is the European Record. The shore best at 3lb 4oz has stood since 2008 to the credit of Simon Newton who was fishing in Guernsey's Belgruve Bay.



LEFT: The rays bream is distinctive, this is the fish found in a rock pool at Plymouth's Barbican



BEST OF THE BOAT SHOW

Tim Macpherson goes to Southampton for the annual international boat show and brings back news on the best new boats, engines and electronics for sea anglers

September is the time for the annual gathering of boat enthusiasts, the Southampton International Boat Show, and this year's event was just as spectacular as the pre-event publicity suggested. The weather wasn't kind during the weekdays, which did affect the footfall, although many exhibitors we spoke to seemed more than happy with the number of real punters they were seeing. We've picked out the best new fishing boats and products on offer from this year's show.

BOATS

There were plenty of great angling boats to view – from RIBs and SIBs to aluminium hulled craft, from kayaks to 25 footers and beyond. Aluminium boats are becoming more popular in the UK amongst boat anglers and we've already reviewed a few. Aluminium boats are hard wearing and need minimal maintenance (these boats do not require constant gelcoat repair or polishing), are easy to beach and load full of gear.

The most recognisable boats - the Smart Fish 25 and Extreme Game King (featured as a prize in the recent Sea Angling Classic) - are two recent examples and both were on show at the event. But we found a new one on the market - the Norden Aluminium Fast Fisher. At £34,995 (engine and electronics excluded) the 600 model looks like a good, robust option. The complete package was on display with a forward open cabin fitted with 3D Craft seats and a 115hp Mercury on the back. It's a boat which can reach 30 knots and also boasts a 40 litre built-in live

bait tank, side storage, rod holders and all the usual accessories. It's spacious and comes with non-slip flooring.

American boat builder Tracker were also showing their open aluminium deep V boats and having tested these in hostile Scandinavian waters I have experienced their durability and good handling in rough waters. UMS also had their popular aluminium boat range; these boats are great for inshore estuary fishing and the flat deck means it's easy to fit and use a trolling motor on the foredeck. All these boats are made for trailing and can take engines up to 200hp. One aluminium boat we've also fished in is the Linder range both the Arkip, and the Sportsman are great inshore angling boats too – stable, cheap to buy and run and very durable.

Centre console boats are also becoming more popular with the Smartwave 4200 from the Wolf Rock Boat Company a good example of this. These boats are well priced starting at about £18,000 for the whole package. RBS Marine were showing the new Rodman 790 centre console model, the boat Sea Angler used successfully at the recent Sea Angling Classic. It comes highly recommended although is considerably more expensive at £100k-plus for the full package.



The new
**RIBCRAFT
R350**



The new Aluminium Norden Fast Fisher



The Highfield 340E RIB with electric motor



Seats and deck of the Norden 600



The new Swedish-made Linder Arkip

RIBs and SIBs were well represented and two caught our eye: the Highfield E-propulsion Classic 340E RIB which comes with an electric outboard, a Navy 6.0 Evo Shortshaft, and the Ribcraft R350 which resembled a cross between a RIB and a jet ski but is designed for angling with built-in rod holders and takes a 40hp engine – meaning it'll be great for summer inshore bass and mackerel fishing.

All the usual boat makers were there including Orkney, Warrior, Cheetah Cat, Highlander, Jeanneau, plus many more traditional fibreglass boats.



TRAILERS

For those who keep their boats on trailers – and many do either in fishing club compounds or in their front yard – having a good, reliable trailer is essential. Two brands stuck out for me: SBS trailers and Vanclaes. We've used SBS trailers on many different sized boats and they are well made and durable and they have recently added a new trailer extension to make launching and retrieving even easier. Vanclaes had their Exelleron Wave 1800 14" trailer which takes 1435kg of payload – ideal for boats up to 3.5m.



The New Zealand made Smartwave 4200



The Targa Tracker V-19 WT



The Ukranian made UMS 585 DC

ENGINES

The "big boys" were there in force with some great new engines including the new model Suzuki 300 on show on Smart Fish and they also had a novel attraction on their stand - a fishing simulator supplied by Shimano. They ran a competition to see who could "land" the biggest fish and plenty of punters had a go (I have to confess I had a go catching a tuna and on a 50lb popping rod I could still feel the strain a couple of days later). Yamaha, Mercury, Tohatsu, Selva and other were all well represented. Lots of electric motors were on show – these are becoming more popular as battery life increases and they become more lightweight. They are great on RIBs and there is one great example we've seen regularly at shows and have reviewed in a previous issue, the RemigoOne, which is claimed to be the world's first fully integrated 1000w electric outboard including a 1085 Wh Li-Ion battery. Its lightweight aluminium casing makes it easy to transport. These engines are the future and with battery technology improving these will increasingly feature on boats.

ELECTRONICS

Marine electronics is always the first stop for angling visitors, and Garmin had their new ECHOMAP series on show. Raymarine was showing the new Axiom HD models – recently reviewed in this magazine – and chart software company Navionics was doing great business throughout the week with their immensely popular and excellent Relief Shading.

I always have a hunt around for new and interesting gadgets at the boat show – in recent post Covid years I've noticed a reduction in the numbers of smaller, quirkier stands; I guess the high cost and the ease of engaging through the internet has reduced the event's importance for smaller companies. However, there was plenty there for anglers who own or aspire to own their own boat. In all it was a great event and if the organisers introduce a bespoke angling section in future years then the lure for angling visitors will only increase.

Go to www.southamptonboatshow.com for more on the exhibitors. ■



BLUESKATE

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SPECIES HUNTING



With planning, dedication and patience the blue skate can be targeted with a good probability of successfully catching one, as Dave Lewis knows from personal experience

Up until the 1926 blue skate were recognised as being an entirely separate species, before scientific opinion of the day decided that they were really just common skate. Not convinced, a few years ago CEFAS, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, instigated a tagging program and commissioned research to find out more about blue skate. Their results have confirmed that blue skate are indeed a separate species from common, or flapper skate, *Dipturus intermedius*. In 2010 blue skate were reclassified as being a separate genus, *Dipturus batis*.

The giveaway characteristics to help identify a blue skate include a well-defined, pointed head, and their distinct body colouration. They are only rarely caught by anglers as they tend to live in very deep water, which usually means fishing well offshore. That said, in recent years a few specimens have been caught from the shore in the south west of the UK. It is likely that others have been caught in the past but have not been recognised for what they are.

My first experience with blue skate was on a long-range multi-day charter trip which had been planned specifically to target them, along with a few other unusual species. I had fished aboard the then Plymouth based charter boat *Size Matters*, anchoring over a mark in 450ft of water approximately 60 miles to the west of the Isles of Scilly. We caught two blue skate during the trip, the largest weighing in the region of 40lb. Both fish, had we kept them, would have established British records.

Clearly blue skate can be targeted with a good probability of success. It is likely that given sufficient effort they might be encountered with some regularity much closer to mainland UK than where we fished. Undoubtedly, they will be present off the west coast of Scotland and Ireland too; you just need to run offshore, anchor in deep water and fish for them.

TACKLE

Considering that in the area where blue skate are found there is a strong likelihood of catching other sizeable species, including six gill sharks and common skate, it is important to use tackle sufficient to deal with these bycatch species that commonly weigh several hundreds of pounds. Substantial tackle in the 50lb class is essential. The rod must be

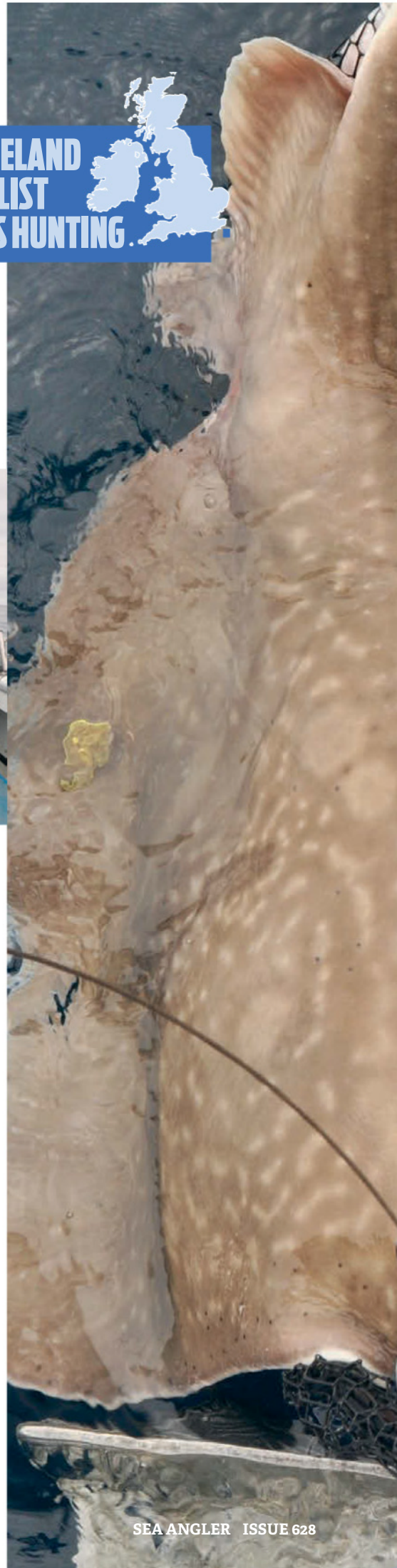


strong enough to maintain sustained and considerable pressure, as should the reel, which should be loaded with a minimum of 80lb braid.

A simple running ledger is the most effective rig, ideally tied with short hook lengths of just 12 - 15in of at least 250lb monofilament; consider using much heavier mono or wire to handle sharks. Short hook lengths are far less likely to tangle when dropping down to the bottom in very deep water, and they are far less likely to result in deeply hooked fish.

Above the hook length your rig should incorporate a 10 - 12ft rubbing trace, again 250lb monofilament, to prevent the line from getting cut by abrasion. You must use strong, high-quality swivels of around 300lb. Hooks should be bronzed and ideally barbless to facilitate easy unhooking, and to ensure that should it be necessary to cut the trace and leave a hook inside the fish's mouth it will eventually corrode free. 12/0 bronze O'Shaughnessy hooks are perfect.

Like the rest of the skates and rays the blue skate is a bottom feeder, with a diet consisting of crustaceans and clams, oysters, snails and small fish. The best hook baits are fish, with whole mackerel, coalfish, pollack or other similar species being widely used. Use big baits. Fishing in deep water is tiresome and smaller baits will very quickly get cleaned out by the plethora of small fish and other fauna found in the area you will be fishing.





TACTICS

With the boat settled at anchor lower your baited rig very slowly down to the bottom, to minimise the risk of the bait spinning and causing a tangle. It is essential you use sufficient lead to ensure the bait fishes hard on the bottom, and this will mean using leads of 2lb and upwards.

Skate fishing is invariably a waiting game. Bites range from rod bending lunges resulting from a fish picking up the bait unnoticed and swimming off with it, to surprisingly delicate twitches and nods on the rod tip. Set the hook by winding the line as tight as possible then lifting the rod. At first you might feel you are snagged on the bottom but more often than not this will be the fish holding fast, and it will be necessary to maintain sustained pressure to get it moving.

Once the fish is in open water maintain as much pressure on it as you can, in order to start slowly working it up through the water column. In deep water this is hard, physical work and while a good butt pad is essential, a well-fitting shoulder harness will be a distinct advantage. Don't try and rush things, skate fishing is about taking your time and gradually working the fish to the boat. If you are successful you will earn your place as a member of the very small group of anglers who can claim to have caught a blue skate! ■



NEXT ISSUE

In the December issue of **Sea Angler**

- River bass fishing – thinking outside the box
- Chesil cod – where, when and how to catch a lunger
- Species hunting for John dory
- The Bristol Channel ray Grand Slam
- Yamashita versus Fiiish – battle of the squid jigs
- PENN Conflict rods reviewed

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SEA SCHOOL

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Q & A

SHORE ANGLING



WINNING QUESTION

ASK THE EXPERTS

When sending your question, please remember to include your name and address



CHRIS KENNEDY

Chris is a specimen hunting specialist based on Sark and answers shore fishing questions.



DAVE LEWIS

Based in Newport, South Wales, our contributing editor Dave answers boat fishing questions.



JOHN HOLDEN

A Sea Angler contributor for over four decades specialising in casting and rod building.



HENRY GILBEY

Angler, blogger and photo-journalist Henry, based in Cornwall, is our lure expert.



BEN BASSETT

The Plymouth angler and blogger will provide answers on the sport of light rock fishing (LRF), the go-anywhere tactic.

HOW TO ASK US A QUESTION

Email: sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk
or online: facebook.com/seaanglermag

By asking a question you are giving us permission to use your name and where you live in all versions and platforms of this magazine.

Q I see a lot of brands offering breathable waterproofs. They are a lot more expensive than my waterproofs from the army surplus store. Are they worth the money?

Alex Lefevre, Whitby

CK says: Let me explain why I think they are worth the upgrade for many sea anglers. Originally, waterproofs available were 100 per cent waterproof and heavy, but what would happen is that they would keep the rain off your back, but you would sweat underneath, and condensation would make you extremely damp and cold, which during long autumn, winter or spring sessions would cut your fishing time and comfort. Some years ago, mountaineering and sailing brands like Rab, Arc Teryx, Musto and Helly Hansen, to name a few, began producing breathable multi-layered fabrics using patented technology using Goretex and eVent. This meant that not only could

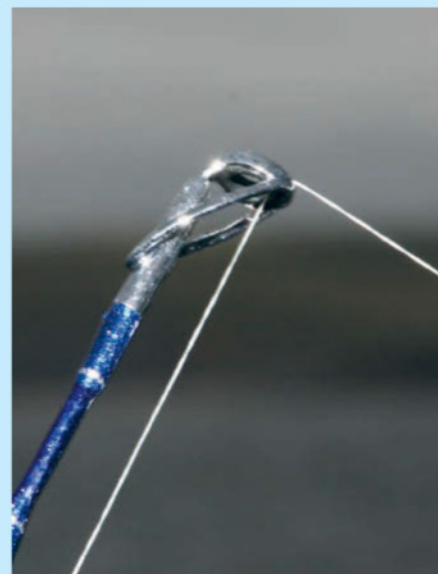
you stand in the rain fishing and not get wet, but the special fabrics would also allow heat and moisture produced by the body to escape. Meaning you could stay dry and bear the elements for much longer.

The neat thing about breathable waterproofs is that they are extremely lightweight and are designed for you to layer up. What I mean by that is you could wear your waterproofs in summer and just have a T-shirt underneath and be comfortable in warm temperatures. In winter, you might choose to have hoodies, micro-fleeces or even full down kit underneath. The breathable waterproofs act as an outer membrane, keeping you dry and comfortable.

Q I am presently looking at new rods; however, I am struggling to understand the benefit of a glass tip. Are they as strong/durable as carbon tips?

Paul Sexton, Brighton

CK says: The choice between carbon and glass tips divides a lot of anglers. Brands like Century use S2 glass in some of their rod tips. This is a very strong material that is very durable, stress-resistant, flexible and is actually used in modern body armour, helicopter blades and even pole vaults. You should have no fears about its strength or longevity. The benefits of glass tips are that they show even the tiniest of bites at long range, and they soak up fast tides, allowing your grip leads to stay fixed. In my opinion they're excellent. The downside is that fishing in heavy surf or storms, you'll get a bit more tip movement than an ordinary carbon-tipped rod. Glass tips can also take a little getting used to when casting them initially; the timing is slightly different. I prefer glass-tipped rods but my advice is to try one and see what you think.



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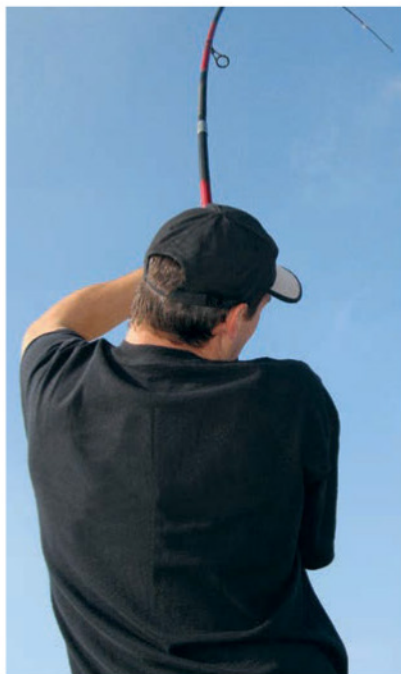
Sufix

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Q Someone on the beach the other week commented that I was high-sticking my rods and that I might damage them. I didn't really understand the guy. Can you explain what it means?

Robert Ness, Newquay

CK says: High-sticking, or column-loading, is when you put your rods at unnatural steel angles, which causes your rod tip to be forced toward the reel, sort of like an upside-down J shape. This happens often when anglers are landing fish or trying to grab their leader. It also happens when fishing very deep-water marks, such as Norwegian fjords or Scottish lochs, and the line enters the water by your feet. When your rod is compressed it should be in an even curve, like a C shape, making sure there are no steep or acute angles. As a rule, the closer the fish gets to you, the more your tip should be lowered. The reason you shouldn't high-stick or column load your expensive rods is that the structural integrity and strength of the rods are based on spreading the load in an even curve. If you create steep angles, you put most of the pressure on a tiny part of the tip, and it can break with not much pressure at all. It's probably the number one reason for rod breakages in the UK.



Q I've read on forums and Facebook pages that many anglers rinse their reels after every session. Is this really necessary? I hear all of this marketing about bearings being sealed, new corrosion-resistant materials and keeping saltwater out.

Ben Jones, Barry, Wales

CK says: In short, I would rinse your reels off after a session. Besides the salt corrosion that can affect most reels, you

may get contaminates in the moving parts, like sand or grit, and the reels will operate much less smoothly, likely reducing their lifespan. I also know many sea anglers who frequently sell or trade their reels, and it's clear that well-looked-after reels keep good value. It's worth looking after things. However, if you're well-off and time is more important than religiously cleaning and maintaining reels, then maybe it's better you just buy reels with fantastic sealing and which require little maintenance. A quick dip for the reels in warm tap water and leaving them to dry takes no time at all. It's really up to you. The funny thing is, this question has prompted me to give my reels a quick clean!



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SEA SCHOOL

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Q&A

BOAT ANGLING

Q Due to severe arthritis in my shoulders, I'm having considerable difficulty starting my 6hp auxiliary outboard. What is the smallest electric start outboard it is possible to get without going to an all-electric drive auxiliary?

DIANE JONES, NORTH WALES

DL says: Following a quick online search it appears that the smallest electric start outboard currently in production from Yamaha and Suzuki is 9.9hp, while Honda offer an 8hp. I am certainly not aware of any smaller electric start engines, but your local marine dealership might have more information.



Q Is it essential to use a purpose made leisure battery aboard a boat or will a standard auto battery, which are generally much cheaper, suffice?

STEVE BOULTON, WEST SUSSEX

DL says: Over the years that I had my own boats I have used both, and as you say leisure batteries are much more expensive. In recent years battery technology has advanced considerably, along with the specific power requirements for engines and onboard electronics. One difference between the two types of battery is that a leisure battery is designed for long periods of inactivity, followed by short periods of use. My advice would be to contact a marine mechanic and follow their advice.

Q Which are the most effective multiple lure rigs for catching bait: feathers, Hokeye or Sabiki rigs?

KARL BEDDINGTON, TEESIDE

DL says: Traditional feathers work well for mackerel and will also catch pollack, coalfish, bass, cod and many other species, especially if baited. Hokeye lures tend to be more effective for a similar range of species. Sabiki rigs will work well for smaller species such as herring and sandeels, but on many days these somewhat diminutive lures will prove very effective for large mackerel, pollack, bass and many more. In addition, Sabikis are a good choice when looking for unusual mini-species when baited with small pieces of ragworm. I always carry a few Sabiki rigs in my boat fishing rig wallet.



Q Why are circle hooks so popular?

SCOTT MORRISON, LONDON

DL says: One reason why circle hooks are so popular is that they avoid gut hooking of fish, which is obviously important when intending to release fish. More often than not the hook will locate neatly in the corner of the fish's jaw, as shown, causing minimum damage. When using circle hooks do not strike, as this will prevent the design of the hook from working; rather, just allow the line to gradually tighten as the fish swims off with the bait



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Q I use razorfish a lot for bait when shore fishing; they are deadly when fished in the surf for bass. Are they a good bait to try afloat?

NEIL LEAKE, BRISTOL

DL says: Razorfish are a superb bait to use afloat. They are hugely effective for bass and cod but will also catch various species of flatfish and ray, along with many other species. Back in the day frozen razorfish was one of the most effective baits I used to fish aboard my own boats for winter cod in the Bristol Channel.



WINNING QUESTION

Q When fishing lures over a wreck or reef is it true that the fish feed better during rough conditions, rather than when it is flat calm?

ADAM BIRCH, DEVON

DL says: From my experience the fishing can be more productive when the sea is a 'little lively' – although I would say that it is the strength of the tide that is more important. Flat, calm conditions combined with little tide over a reef or wreck rarely fish well, unless fishing bait for species such as conger. When conditions are rough the fishing will rarely be comfortable, and invariably it will only be those anglers who are unaffected by the boat's enhanced motion that will be able to fish effectively.



Q&A

LURE FISHING



Q Are there any simple rules I can follow regarding retrieval rates and lure choice when targeting predators such as bass, wrasse and pollock?

CRAIG ELLIS, NORTH WALES

HG says: Never worry about simply whacking it out and winding it in for bass. Take a shallow-diving lure like the Savage Gear Gravity Shallow: cast it out and wind it at a speed which looks right to you. Same with something like the IMA Hound 125F Glide. Now cast a Gravity Stick Paddletail out on a belly-weight weedless hook and you are going to want to slow down a bit to keep that lure sub-surface and thumping away. For wrasse I will tend to fairly slowly bump various soft plastics along the bottom. Either a fish jumps on the end or I might need to almost stop and shake the lure a bit if I get a bite but no commitment. Pollack can also be targeted like this if they are being especially finicky, but for the most part I will fish lures like the Fiiish Crazy Sandeel or Savage Gear Sandeel with a kind of "sink and draw" for pollack. I think of the draw (upwards movement with the rod) as almost setting the lure, then as you "sink" the lure by moving your rod down while keeping in touch, this is when you expect to actually get hit. You can also take a weedless lure like the Fiiish Black Minnow or Savage Gear Savage Minnow Weedless, let it hit the bottom, then simply wind it back in a medium sort of speed.



WINNING QUESTION

Q Please could you explain how you know how much monofilament line to load onto your spinning reel as backing before loading braid mainline? How do I know how much braid is needed to fill the spool to the lip so it casts correctly?

ANTHONY WILLIAMS, KENT

HG says: To keep it nice and simple David; you can load a Shimano or Daiwa spinning reel up to right where the spool suddenly angles up and you will have no line management issues. I fish a lot with Penn spinning reels because of what the Slammers and Authorities, but for some reason you need to underfill these reels a bit if you are fishing from the shore and casting lighter lures especially. I don't know why this is the case, but it's no problem if you know this and allow for it.

When it comes to filling a reel up, I make use of a drill and an empty spool of line. I wind the braid onto my reel under tension, then I add some 15lb mono and take the line level up to where I want it to be. Then I use the drill and old spool to remove the mono. Keep it on one side of the spool - then remove the braid and keep this to the other side of the spool. You then wind the mono onto your (now) empty reel from that spare spool, tie the braid to the mono, wind the braid on and you will now have your new braid at exactly the right level with your mono

backing underneath. This might sound a bit long-winded, but once you do it a few times you get used to it. I can't find a more logical way of getting the right line-level, other than spending a lot of money on a bulk spool of braid and loading up only from that.



Q I need a small profile lure but I also need it to cast a long way to reach some feeding fish. Any ideas?

SIMON ETHELSTON, NORFOLK

HG says: I have come across this type of thing fairly recently in fact. Bass are feeding on small bait at range – birds working – and I need something with a small profile but which will also cast a mile. A couple of good anglers put me onto a lure called the Savage Gear Gravity Pencil. They come in a few different sizes, but even the heavier 25g and 33g versions are really quite heavy for their profile, and they absolutely fly! You can either simply whack

them out and wind them straight in at a medium sort of retrieve speed, or else in deeper water you can let them drop through the water column a bit.

Also make sure to check out some of the more specialist Japanese designed surf metals from the likes of Major Craft and DUO. I don't subscribe to bigger lures catching bigger bass all the time, not with the bait sources our bass are often tuned in to.



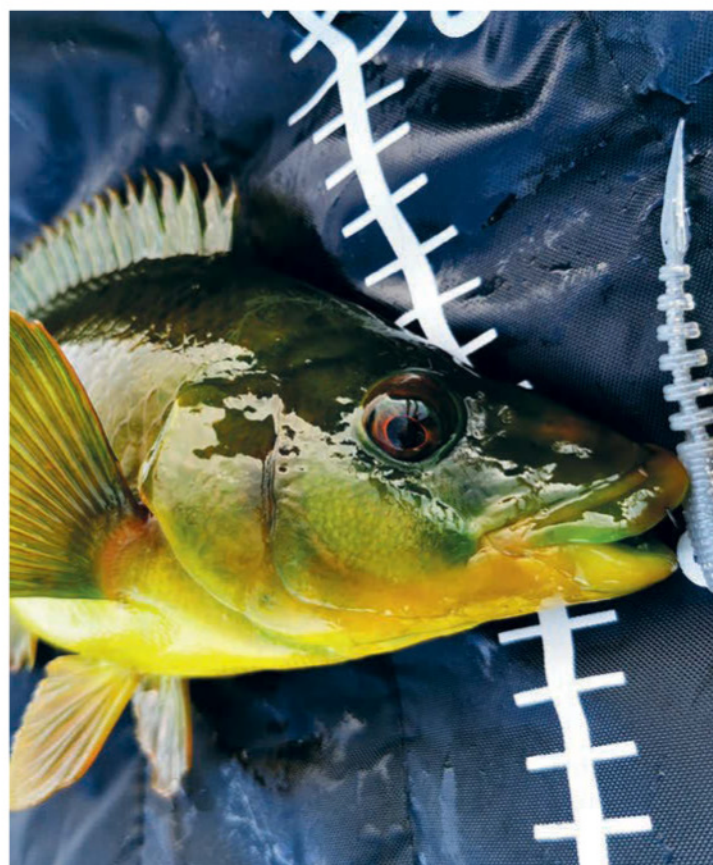
Q&A

LIGHT ROCK FISHING

Q What is the best way of presenting a lure or Isome just under the surface for baby mullet that are chasing and plucking, but not quite taking the lure?

MIKE POWELL, WALES

BB says: Juvenile mullet can be easier to catch than the adults but require tiny hooks and delicate presentation. I use Tanago hooks with a speck of Gulp/Isome and with the minimum weight I need. Often just a single AAA shot or even weightless. This lets it drift in the water column so the mullet have plenty of time to find it. If you can locate a big shoal, flicking this tiny set up past them, then, bringing it through the shoal slowly works really well and gets them competing. It's a deadly technique for boosting a species count during competitions.



Q What minimum and maximum size hook do you use for LRF?

MARTIN GILLET, SOUTHAMPTON

BB says: Technically there is no minimum for me in LRF; I will go as small as I need to catch my target species. Size 20 is quite normal and with Tanago hooks, you can go down to near microscopic sizes! I very rarely, if ever, fish blind with hooks this small though; my truly tiny hooks are used for sight fishing micro species. If you leave it blind, the chance of deep hooking is very high, even with tiny fish. The largest I will go with LRF tackle up to 10g rated, would be a size 4. This would be for using larger lures for bass, wrasse, gurnard etc. This is quite a rare occurrence though because the majority of the time I can catch the same larger species on lures under two inches long.

Q What are the best hooks for the Cheb rig and ways to present it? I find most eyes aren't big enough to get on the link and/or move easily?

STEVEN MCDONALD, LONDON

BB says: Dedicated big eye hooks are a must for Chebs. My favourites are the Gamakatsu Single 31 or the Gurza Sport MH-14, but you can also use weedless patterns from these brands too. The Decoy SG-3 is highly rated but very, very fine and can be easily snapped by larger wrasse or blennies. It is a hugely successful technique and excellent for its adaptability. For LRF though, try not to go too heavy with the weight, as I find it spooks wary mini species, or is easily lost as it sinks through the mud or weed.





AN EDUCATION IN LUBRICATION

What's the best oil to keep your multiplier performing as well as it possibly can? The answer, as **John Holden** explains, is that it depends

Today's multipliers are easy to set up for beach fishing. Choose the right size of reel filled to a sensible level with appropriate line. Set the magnets to whatever level gives reliable results – or add blocks to a centrifugal system to achieve the same thing. Then add a drop or two of oil to the bearings.

Plain oil such as 3-in-1 is good enough for most purposes if you don't mind topping up the bearings regularly. Slightly more specialised oils such as Red Rocket Fuel are great too, not least for staying in the bearings for longer. On the subject of Rocket Fuel, the yellow and tournament versions are highly popular with serious field casters, especially those using ceramic bearings. But don't be sidetracked by the lubrication regimes used for tournament work with custom reels. They have no advantage on the beach and may easily be a step backward.

With magnets and/or brake blocks handling spool control, what does oil do beside providing essential lubrication? Overall, on a reel set up for fishing, not very much, especially with brake blocks.

Out-of-the-box magnetic controllers thrive with ordinary oils. Monomags are slightly different, as are controllers with some of the tiny magnets removed for greater speed and more distance. Their braking force setting is not linear, meaning that even a tiny reduction from the lowest safe level sends the spool wild. It's here that a more specialist oil can help. It's a matter of finding the right viscosity that boosts distance yet keeps the cast under control. Replacing the usual thin reel oil with, say, car engine oil may well do the trick.

OIL SELECTION

Oil selection is important, often critically so, with older multipliers. The oil's viscosity (stickiness, if you prefer) governs the spool speed and thus helps to control the cast. This is particularly so with the plain bush bearings found on vintage multipliers. I get many an email from fishermen trying to go retro but finding it impossible to cast one of these golden oldies. Modern oiling routines usually fail. Try a squirt of something less sophisticated and a heck of a lot

thicker. The classic treatment for a reel such as the Surfmaster 100 or Mitchell 602AP is SAE90 gear oil in summer and SAE30 engine oil in winter. Given a sensible filling level of 0.35mm line and a smooth cast, all you do is let go and leave the spool to take care of itself. For anyone brought up on modern reels with braking systems this probably sounds like a recipe for disaster, but it is virtually 100 per cent reliable on the beach and pretty good for serious field work as well.

Custom lubrication in those days was with a home-brewed mixture of watery machine oil and treacly stuff such as STP oil additive. Varying the proportions by trial and error produced exactly the right viscosity to suit reel, caster and the work involved. You might have a fairly sticky mix for casting in hot weather or for taming an "edgy" reel, and a thin mix for winter or for a sluggish spool. ■

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STEVE HUFF'S DOUBLE 8 LOOP KNOT

Steve Huff is a legend amongst south Florida's saltwater angling guides and was inducted into the International Game Fish Association's (IGFA) Hall of Fame in 2010. A specialist in tarpon fishing he holds many accolades including helping one client to six different tarpon records on four separate line classes. He has been an innovator in fishing and fishing tackle throughout his career. He is responsible for the development of the double 8 loop, a very strong and reliable connection when using 60-100lb stiff mono or fluorocarbon line.

Step-by-step

A. Take the leader or hook length and tie a double overhand knot.

B. Pull it tight until it curves over itself forming the first figure of eight.

C. Pass the line through the eye of the hook and then back through the top and bottom circles of the figure of eight knot.

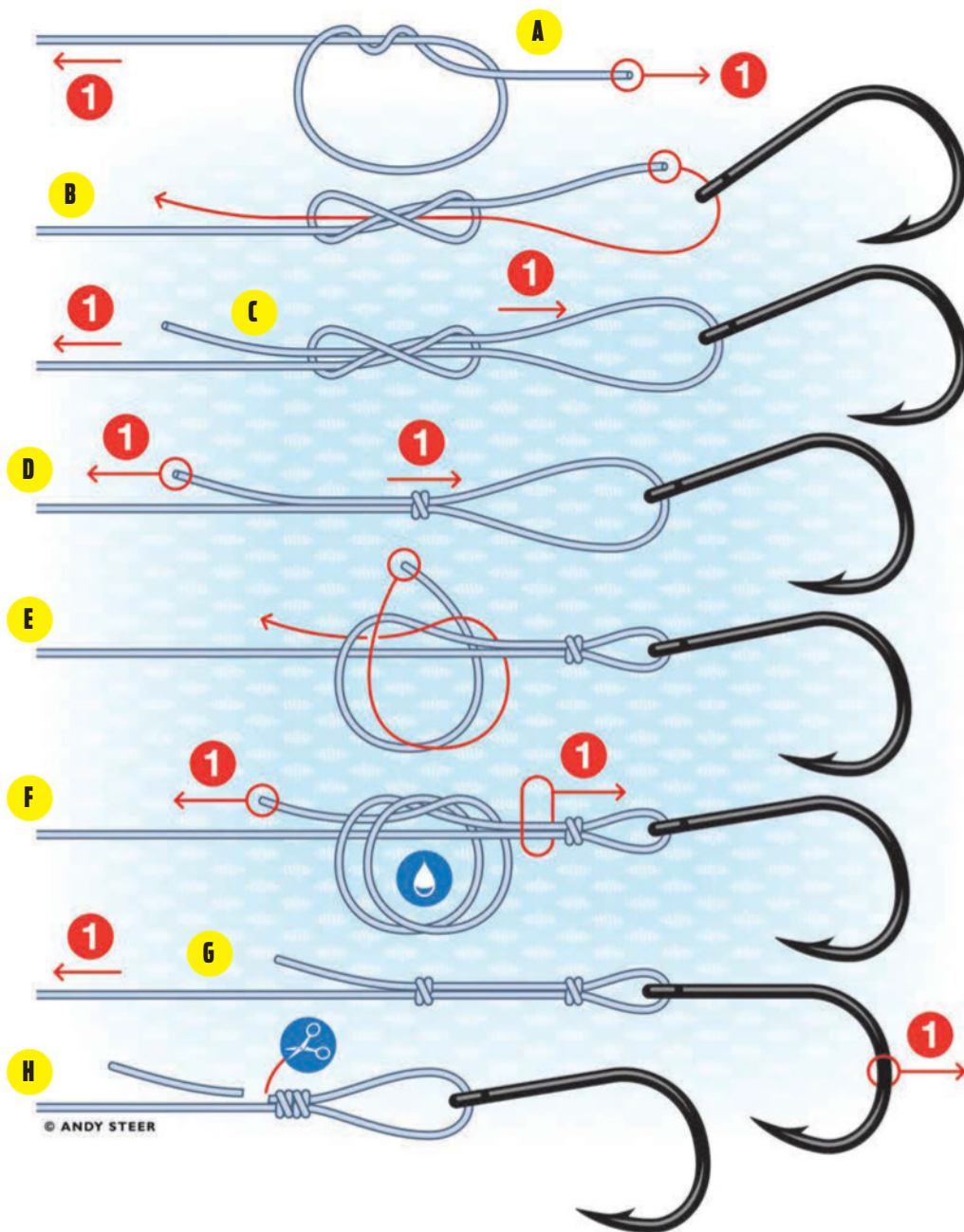
D. Pull the tag end and tighten the knot towards the hook leaving the hook on a loop of line.

E. Next, making sure you have enough line on the tag end, form two loops and pass the tag end through these. This is your second figure of eight knot.

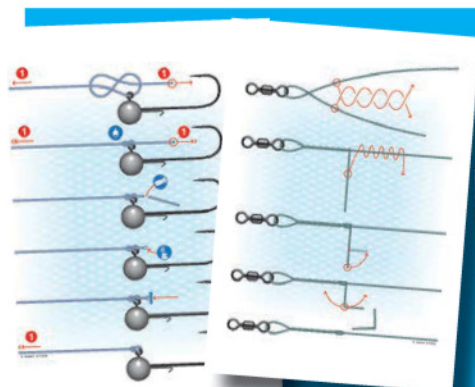
F. Lubricate and tighten the knot by pulling from both ends.

G. Pull the spool end of the line to bring the knots together against each other.

H. Finally, trim off the tag end of the line and you are ready to fish.



© ANDY STEER



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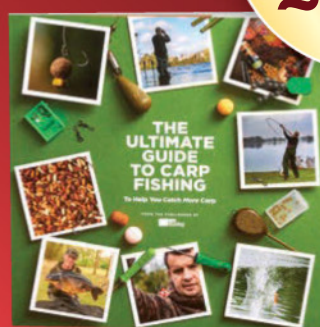
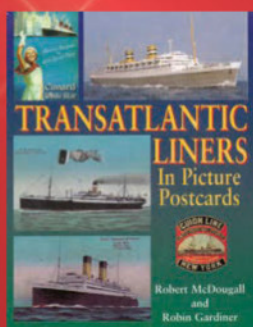
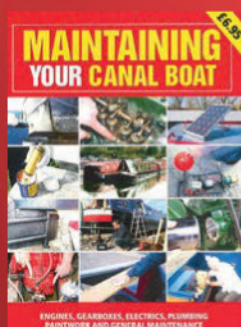
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FIRST LOOK

Your update on the latest gear arriving in the tackle shops



XTRATUF ICE RUBBER DECK BOOT

XTRA TUF boots are immensely popular and used by all manner of anglers and fisherfolk. The ankle deck boot ICE was designed to work on wet ice while simultaneously being able to transition to other wet surfaces. This new boot features Glacier Trek Pro, Xtratuf's proprietary ice gripping compound paired with slip-resistant rubber. The ICE boots have a lightweight rubber upper that is 100 per cent waterproof and include a faux shearling lining for quick drying comfort and warmth.

- RRP £120
- www.XTRATUF.co.uk



SAKUMA CO-POLYMER LINE

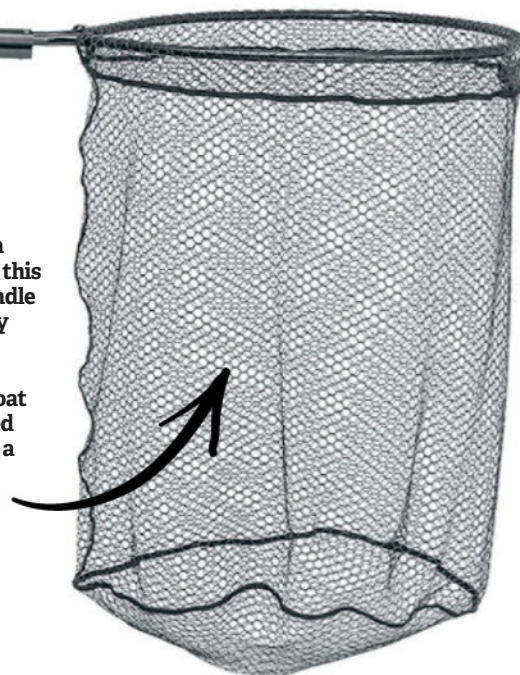
Sakuma have released a super tough, high performance co-polymer line in high-viz fluoro red. The colour makes it perfect for night fishing. Designed to be more abrasion resistant than most co-polymer lines with great casting abilities, handling and feel.

- 15lb = 980m
- 25lb = 592m
- RRP £8.99 per spool from Sakuma stockists
- www.sakuma.co.uk

TRONIXPRO BOAT NET

It's always important to have a durable, reliable boat net and Tronixpro have teamed up with a leading charter skipper to design this net. With a strong aluminium handle and net frame measuring 70cm by 60cm, it has a retractable handle that is easy to deploy and retract when not in use, ideal for small boat anglers. With knotless, rubberised mesh for fish safety and care and a lanyard to keep the net secure.

- RRP £39.99
- www.tronixfishing.com



CENTURY ELIMINATOR BOAT ROD

The design principle separates the rod into three distinct zones: the very supple tip cushions and protects light hook holds, slow progressive increase in power in the mid zone develops a subtle increase in stiffness that controls the fish during the main lift phase, and the final zone delivers leverage to control a specimen fish diving back for cover in snags.

The carefully considered guide spacing and sizes allow a smooth transition of line through the guides even when maximum down force is applied and Titanium has been selected to last many years.

- RRP £395 -£420
- www.centurysea.co.uk

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MAGIC BULLETS

Liam Gunn takes a look at some new products by Seadra and sees whether their new Aqua-Bullet casting jigs hit the target for UK lure fishing

Most sea anglers probably started off casting small lures from the shore. I can attest to this having spent most of my youth wandering along the busy working harbours where I grew up targeting codling, coalfish and scorpion fish, and yomping over the hills to fish remote rock marks targeting specimen pollack and ling using small metal lures. Every hit is equally as exhilarating!

I am still an avid lure angler and like a moth to light, I eagerly test out any interesting-looking metals when I come across them! Unfortunately, fish stocks are lower, and the average stamp of fish appears to be ever-decreasing. However, this does force us to think differently about things – what can we do to have the edge over other anglers? How are we going to tempt that ‘special’ fish?

Seadra has crafted some very cunning (and appropriately priced) small casting jigs which I have been using to great success. Their range of Aqua-Bullet Bait Fish Casting Jigs have proved in my case to be utterly deadly in tempting a wide range of species. They are available in a range of sizes: 20, 30 and 40g. The guys at Seadra have thought long and hard about the Aqua-Bullet range – a carefully selected array of colours are available – and I can tell you from first-hand experience that they all are very effective.

My personal favourites are the Green and Blue Mackerel. The attention to detail on these lures is second-to-none, with very realistic-looking eyes on the lures. I have always been a firm believer that this makes a big difference. Thinking back on my youth, lures from that era that I used to frequently buy had similar-looking eyes, and always worked best until these were inevitably scratched off on rocks. The Seadra jigs are clearly made of stern stuff, and I have not lost an eye on any of my lures yet.

HOLOGRAPHIC

They are possibly the most realistic-looking small metal jigs I have seen to date with a 3D holographic finish; these get hoovered up by pollack, ling, coalfish and, oddly enough, specimen mackerel. Talk about matching the hatch! The lures have an attractive fluttering motion as they fall through the water column.

With the emphasis on these being ‘casting jigs’ they do just what they say on the tin – they absolutely fly out – allowing you to reach those shoals of fish from the shore where other lures may fall short. I prefer to fish these close to the bottom, slowly winding them back towards me. This imparts excellent, and very natural, action on the lures.

All of the Aqua-Bullet range come fitted with a reliable, razor-sharp treble hook and an additional Japanese assist hook with some flash. I do believe



this adds an added layer of depth to these lures making them extra-irresistible to any predatory fish!

Codling and bass love the Cotton Candy variety; these are very effective jigged back towards you, in a ‘sink and draw’ fashion. Fish will normally hit you on the drop, so it pays to be alert. There is also a very appealing Live AYU Prawn colour – if you want to target some brutish Ballan Wrasse then look no further than these! Did I mention that these retail in the ballpark of £5.99 - £6.99? For such a great quality lure, this price point is nothing short of outstanding. I have paid nearly double for similar lures in the past, and in today’s current economic climate saving a few quid here and there makes all the difference if you can still fish with top-quality end tackle.

My choice of lure clip these days is another offering from Seadra. They have produced some excellent “Speed Lure Clips” which are made of 100 per cent stainless steel with a saltwater-friendly coating. They are durable, reliable and are rated up



to an astounding 37lb plus. I have seen some other mini clips fail when under this much pressure, so this is definitely a huge plus and fits my own personal 'robust' approach to lure fishing. The Speed Lure Clips have, as of yet, not let me down! Additionally, they have a curved radius, which allows lures to move freely through the water mimicking the real deal!

I prefer to store my shore jigs in wallets these days; those frustrating memories of trying to untangle a compartment full of treble hooks are but a distant memory now! Seadra's Jig Wallet is a well-thought-out bit of kit. It is made of a tough waterproof material, with a Velcro tab to secure and fasten the wallet. It can hold up to eight lures and can even accommodate larger jigs up to a whopping 200gm.

For boat anglers pitching slow jigs, or perhaps destination pelagic anglers, this might be just the wallet for you! One of the things that I find very useful is the addition of a mesh pocket on the reverse side. This allows you to fit some lure pliers, split rings, clips or perhaps some spare leader with ease.

I am really impressed with Seadra's ever-growing range of products for the UK market; I can't wait to see what comes next! ■

- **Seadra Aqua-Bullet Casting Jig RRP: £5.99 - £6.99**
- **Seadra Jig Wallet RRP: £11.99**
- **Seadra Speed Lure Clips RRP: £1.85**
- **www.veals.co.uk**





SO SOLID CREW

Minehead-based skipper **Dave Roberts** and crew attempt to test PENN's new range of Battalion solid carbon boat rods to destruction

My first impression of this new addition to the PENN stable of boat rods was that it appeared both well-made and attractive, though modest in livery. The unique 'solid spiral' armour technology uses reinforced spiral shaped carbon fibres. This creates an extremely slim blank that delivers a boat rod which is both light and incredibly strong. The Fuji stainless steel guide frames cover the blank perfectly keeping the line from coming into contact with the blank at all times. They are smartly finished with Fuji alconite guides.

The screw down reel seat is of fairly heavy construction and holds the reel perfectly with no signs of unnecessary movement under pressure. The EVA handles are designed to give comfort and warmth making fishing with this rod a pleasure, especially when holding for long periods of time. The gimbal fitting on the butt end is also a valuable feature when handling large fish.

I welcomed the new Battalion boat rod aboard my boat AlyKat for a review day. The aim of the crew onboard was to put the rod through some pretty rigorous abuse. Although the rod is aimed at the big fish market, I found it very comfortable to use. Its sensitivity was also a valuable factor especially when targeting smaller species. Under test, the rod performed impeccably, landing several large rays and conger eels. The sensitive action in the tip soon firms up as the power moves through the blank. This gives an overall fast action that coped with everything that we threw at it.

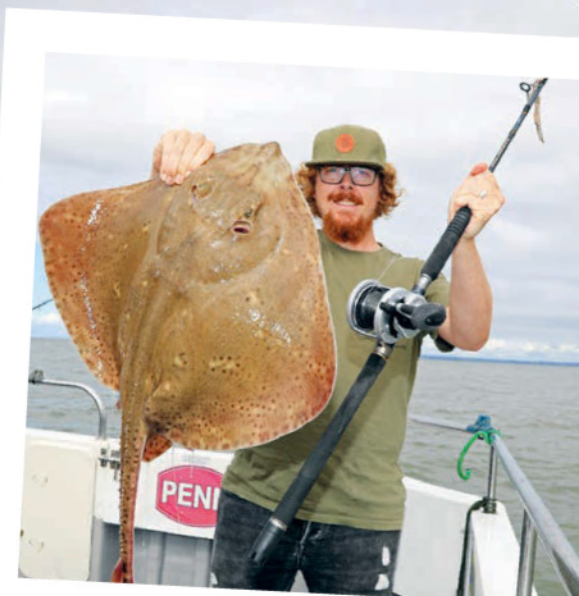


TO THE LIMIT

My personal challenge was to try to break the blank under the weight of a large blonde ray. With all the weight that I could physically muster, the blank showed no weakness. Overall, I would recommend these rods to anyone looking for a 'do it all' tool for middle to heavy general fishing that will absolutely not buckle under pressure. It's forte to me, however, especially in the 30 - 50lb version, is its suitability to grace the deck of any shark or big game boat where it will prove to be as strong as any fish that cares to challenge it!

SPECIFICATION:

- **Battalion Solid Carbon 20 - 30lb Boat**
- **OPTIONS:** 12 - 20lb, 20 - 30lb, 30 - 50lb
- **LENGTH:** 6ft 4in
- **SECTIONS:** 1+1
- **GUIDES:** 8 x Fuji
- **BLANK CONSTRUCTION:** Solid Carbon
- **RRP:** £199.99
- **www.penn-fishing.co.uk**





CULTURE CLUB

Autumn means digging your hoody back out!

Chris Kennedy has been testing Vass' new offering from their Culture range. Here's his expert opinion on how it performs



We sea anglers all love a decent hoody and just about every fishing tackle manufacturer has an offering, but not all are equal. It's up to us to decide which ones are worth our hard-earned money and which are worth giving a miss. Vass as a brand have a history in textiles that dates back to 1950 and they've been in the sea angling market since 2009. In the 14 years since they have built a reputation for doing things a little differently.

I have recently spoken at great length with one of the owners of the company, Chris Hvass. I had seen him at angling shows in the past, including The Big One at Farnborough. He is a guy who has a passion for materials, innovation and sea angling. It hardly surprises me that Vass, understanding the needs of fishermen and the UK climatic challenges, has produced a warm, comfortable hoody that is very well made.

FEATURES

The Culture hoody features a brushed fleece lining, double-layered hood and a neat little pouch that is zipped. The frontal compartment is designed for storing your valuables, such as keys, mobile phone or anything else you may wish to have securely on your person. You may wish to pop a spare bait elastic in there or even a light; there is plenty of space. The pocket has a flap that secures and covers the zip. You also have your standard hand pockets just above the waist, as well as drawstrings to tighten the hood in unpleasant conditions. It's well thought out in terms of a sea angler's needs.

The hoody comes in both black and a khaki green (olive). It is available in sizes: small (38" chest), medium (40" chest), large (42-44" chest), XL (46" chest), XXL (48" chest) and XXXL (50-52" chest). For those of you who want something less understated, Vass also offer a version with their trademark yellow strap print.

After a fair few uses on some pretty nippy evenings fishing, the hoody gets a big tick from us at Sea Angler magazine: it's stylish and has been designed with attention to detail and the needs of sea anglers in mind. ■

■ vassrainwear.co.uk

■ RRP: £49.99





A TITAN AMONGST SMOCKS

Joe Whyte tests the Titan 3.0 EXEAT smock and is so impressed he doubts he'll ever need to buy another fishing jacket

They say that you can't improve on perfection and 30 years of designing and selling high quality multi-purpose clothing would attest to that regarding Titan Fishing, a veritable British institution in the angling and outdoor communities. Most of you will be familiar with Titan – they've been at the top end of waterproof, breathable clothing for many years and are the choice of professional, match and amateur anglers due to the quality and detail of their products, and the guarantee of long-lasting and hard-wearing clothing.

The first version of the famous Titan breathable smock was introduced to the market 30 years ago; company founder and designer Alan Lund released his original version of the three-quarter length smock which is renowned (and rightly so) as a classic of its kind. Alan unfortunately died in 2018 and the much-loved "boss" was not there to witness the relaunch of the full product range. However, if he's looking down on his son and successor, and his colleagues, a wry smile of approval will surely be in place.

Titan has always been a company that has stressed quality in its products; the highly regarded TITANEX range and the more recent Titan Retro Smock (which was manufactured to the highest standards using Japanese-made Entrant fabric) have been at the top end of waterproof and breathable over-garments for many years. Titan use the most rigorous of testing parameters on their products and they pride themselves on being the best.

UPGRADE

The new Titan 3.0 EXEAT fishing smock takes a true design classic and upgrades it to 21st century standards. With a raft of upgraded and improved features, it looks certain to continue the popularity of its predecessors in the earlier and much-regarded earlier versions. EXEAT fabric is still made in England like it was in Alan Lund's initial designs and has an upgraded British Standards spec; Titan put it through its paces and it still beats everything else.

Unpacking the smock from its packaging was an instant giveaway; you can literally feel the quality of the materials and the standard of the

manufacturing immediately. I've personally bought cheaper fishing jackets, floatation suits and waterproofs and the old adage of "buy cheap, buy twice" remains as true as the day it was first coined. The Titan smock feels like the type of over-jacket that will last you a lifetime and I don't say that lightly; they're not anywhere near the cheap end of the market, clearly, but this is the type of high quality garment that will take whatever is thrown at it and then some.

I'm informed that these smocks have become a favourite with Norwegian Arctic Circle anglers and I don't doubt it. I personally wouldn't class this as a worst-weather-only smock, either – it's light enough and airy enough to suit almost all of the seasons we see in the UK despite it being tough enough (and warm enough) for the worst the weather can throw at us.

My favourite feature of the Titan smock is the way it is cut: the body is a generous fit with raglan-like sleeves that are designed for casting and climbing; how many times have you been on a rough ground rock mark in the worst of winter and taken your jacket off to cast because of the constrictive fit of your floatie top half? This makes it so much easier feeling and in testing I was blasting a 6oz gripper with a Century Kompressor Sport on a pretty balmy day with absolute ease.

ON TEST

For testing purposes, I took the smock locally down to Erskine Beach on a wet and clammy August afternoon – not ideal research, I know, but needs must! Scotland has had a miserable summer; it's rained biblically some days and been windy and wet most of the others. I chose a rainy day with temperatures around a muggy 20 degrees and a gusty wind.

As mentioned, climbing a couple of gates and fences and swinging a cast was an absolute breeze; I didn't feel at all constricted and, interestingly, I didn't feel at all like I was in a jacket-sized sauna either. That's often the problem with many other fishing jackets; they're designed to either keep you warm, snug and layered up underneath but the practicalities of actually moving are for the most part an afterthought. The Titan doesn't feel like that at all; I was able to move freely and in

comfort all afternoon. The rain did not penetrate at any point either. This, I know, is probably of little interest to most anglers, but the smock is actually pretty cool and stylish looking. There's definitely a bit of Pretty Green-style design in the shape and look of it and while that's probably not that important in the grand scheme of things, I didn't feel or look like a day-glo yeti, which is definitely a good thing.

I also tried this smock for an hour or so on my kayak on Loch Long in calm conditions and reaching around and behind did not feel at all uncomfortable.

USABILITY

The meat and potatoes of the Titan smock, however, is its usability: 100 per cent waterproof, windproof and H2O vapour permeable make this pretty unbeatable in bad conditions. The aforementioned cut of the smock make casting and climbing much less of a chore. The seams are taped and hot-air sealed. This won't leak unless you literally set it on fire. Elasticated inner cuffs and outer Velcroed cuffs mean seawater, rain and the juice of crab cart won't run up your sleeve. In addition it features a high collar and hood which have locking drawstrings and neck protection.

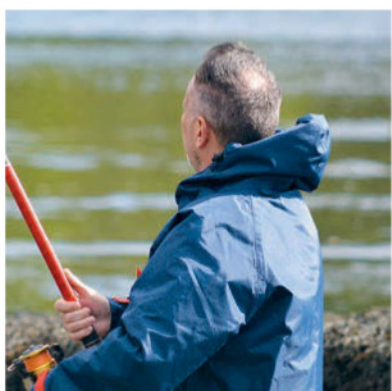
KEEPING YOU WARM

The smock has a thermal and breathable quilted lining (it's pretty light to wear too) which will do the job in most poor conditions. There's the large chest pocket with the Titan logo in front with a concealed and closing pouch for your phone, and the two side pockets have a neat feature where they close around your wrists when in use and close completely when not.

The smock comes in navy or red with contrasting trim and is available in all sizes from medium up to a generous 58-inch triple XL. I'm a medium in regular jackets but a large was a better fit over a hoodie and waders.

If you're after an all-weather smock that will last a lifetime and take all sorts of abuse, you'd be well advised to take a look at the legendary Titan 3.0 EXEAT smock. I doubt that I'll buy another jacket as the Titan has become my immediate go-to. ■

■ Available from titan-fishing.com
■ RRP: £139.99



IT'S WARFARE! WIN THIS PENN COMBO

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This month one lucky reader will win an extremely versatile all-round boat fishing combo from PENN. The two-piece 7ft 2in 30lb Warfare boat rod features a powerful carbon blank, heavy duty guides and a x-gimbal which fits into a fighting belt. The rod is paired with a PENN 30LW reel featuring high quality drag washers, line capacity rings and a level wind to lay the line on the spool smoothly. This combo is ideal for taking on heavy-duty species such as congers, cod, tope and rays in deep water. To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize simply enter below. Good luck!



FEATURES:

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THE BIG INTERVIEW

Tim Macpherson caught up with sea angling YouTuber John Locker (AKA The Fish Locker) at the Southampton International Boat Show and found out more about him, his life and his passion for angling



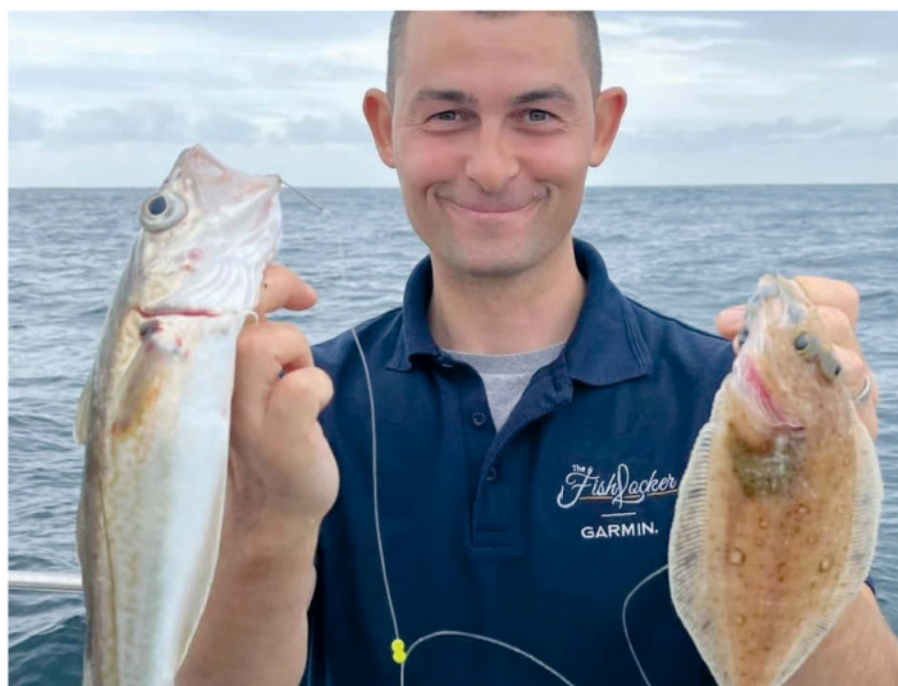
John Locker was born in County Durham and grew up in North Yorkshire. He moved to the South West when he joined the Navy and after six years of service has been based in Cornwall ever since. A lifelong angler the 37-year-old has held the British shore-caught bass record since 2012 and in 2018 started his YouTube channel, The Fish Locker, which currently has over 339,000 subscribers.

SA: When did you start fishing and who inspired you when you started?

TFL: I am from a fishing family in a fishing town. It's in my blood and has always been a passion. When I started it was John Wilson who I most remember.

SA: What's your favourite type of fishing or species to fish for?

TFL: My favourite species changes with the seasons; I love so many. I really enjoy my shark fishing, but also just anything that requires a challenge or can throw up something special: for instance, deep sea wreck fishing.



SA: Where's your favourite location to fish?

TFL: I have been fortunate enough to be able to fish in many locations across the globe. I have a wife and family who love to travel and see new places so we have travelled a lot since lockdown: Canada, Florida, California, Canary Islands but also places at home. Some absolute gems are right on our doorstep in the UK.

SA: You have a very successful YouTube channel which grew very quickly – what prompted you to launch it?

TFL: A couple of different angles came together when starting out with the YouTube channel: I was helping a family friend's son get into fishing and teaching him the basics. When I was a kid you didn't have the internet; we learned from an older angler. It was the only way in those days. I asked this young lad where he learned from and he said YouTube. At the time my wife and I used to watch some fishing channels on YouTube. To be honest, their fish care, species knowledge and even their understanding of the importance of conservation wasn't very good. I have a rather unique range of experience: I am from a commercial fishing background, I studied marine biology, I was a fisheries officer and I am just an incredibly passionate angler. As a result, my wife and I decided that I could do better than what was available on YouTube at the time, so I did. It is much easier to criticise and tear things down than it is to build and create. I put in hours and hours every single day for five years and built something better.

SA: Has your life changed since you became The Fish Locker?

TFL: I don't think my life has changed much at all since the YouTube channel has grown. I still work and fish a lot, but I did that anyway! The only difference is now I'm filming it. I guess the biggest thing for me, and the most surreal, is being recognised in various places. As far as I'm concerned, I'm just an idiot with a GoPro, so having people recognise me is very bizarre. I have taken on more responsibility since becoming a public person. It became very apparent to us during lockdown how many people we were helping with the videos, whether it was through education or escapism, or simply through some positive interaction encouraging people to get outside and be engaged with the natural world. I feel that while I have the ability to make things better I also have the responsibility to do it and show other people how.

“I put in hours and hours every single day for five years and built something better”

SA: How excited are you about the prospect of a recreational bluefin fishery opening next year? Have you been out on a CHART boat and caught one?

TFL: I am very excited at the prospect of a recreational fishery being given the green light – provided it is managed properly and anglers are involved in the decision-making and policing. The legislation makers, commercial fishermen and recreational anglers all need to be equally represented and involved.

SA: You are a Garmin ambassador – what Garmin equipment do you currently use and what does it bring to your fishing?

TFL: I have had Garmin products on my last four boats. I currently run a GPSMAP 1223xsv 56 UHD and a LiveScope plus and a Garmin VHF system. There are many features that I use on a daily basis to improve my fishing and safety when on the boat: from Navionics Relief Shading for my fishing and working the lobster pots, the AIS tracking for safety when offshore or when in low visibility and the LiveScope helps when finding bait fish. Even just the unit itself allows me to screen record so I can add footage to the videos.



The Fish Locker



[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=JbRk3BtSodo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbRk3BtSodo)



SEA LEAGUE

The latest results from Britain's biggest event for shore match anglers

LEADER BOARD AS OF SEPTEMBER 26TH 2023

Saul Page	Deal	80	Roy Tapper	Cardiff	20	Andy Clark	Redcar	11
Shane Russell	Old Colwyn	74	Scott Moore	Hartlepool	20	Barry Diaper	Stowmarket	11
George Smith	Grimsby	63	Brett Cotter	London	19	Dan Middlemas	Whitby	11
Ben Arnold	Brighton	57	Chris Jones	Porthcawl	19	Daniel Parker	Wallasey	11
Joe Wales	Shoreham	55	Colin Carey	Worthing	19	Garry Davies	Swansea	11
Ged Stevens	Bar in Furness	47	Chris Equall	Cardiff	18	Jimmy Price	Abergele	11
Philip A Lee	Sussex	44	Chris Horn	Kirkcaldy	18	Joe Arch	Llanishen	11
Dave Shorthouse	Kettering	43	Kevin Warner	Horncastle	18	Anthony Cole	Millom	10
Shaun Tucker	Swansea	41	Scott Davies	Abergele	18	Chris Stringer	Whitley Bay	10
Darren Bond	Lancing	38	Shaun Moore	Cardiff	18	Danny Woodcock	Weymouth	10
Sam Collier	Deal	38	Adam Johnson	South Shields	17	Dave Bielby	Scarborough	10
Alan Price	Rhyl	37	Billy Buckley	Glasgow	17	Dave Wade	Hove	10
Henry Randell	Bodham	36	Chi Cheung		17	James Barker	Clevedon	10
Paul Medd	Scarborough	36	Dave Lovelock	Salisbury	17	James Madsen	Clevedon	10
Nathan Elliott	Dover	34	Steve Roberts	Cardiff	17	Julian French	Brighton	10
Rob Tuck	Holland on Sea	34	Alby Allan	South Shore SAC	16	Mark Chrukschank	Port Talbot	10
Tony Roberts	Holyhead	32	Bevan Self	Gt Yarmouth	16	Mike Flynn	Llanfair	10
David O'Sullivan	Tralee	30	Craig Buy	Colchester	16	Wayne Davidson	Thornton	10
Julian Shambrook	Torquay	30	Darren Browne	South Shields	16	Wayne Leason	Hull	10
Lee Smith	Hull	30	Matt Frost	Woodbridge	16	Aidan O'Halloran	Lisdoonvarna	9
Gavin Owen	Consett	29	Paul Parsons	Eastbourne	16	Alan Combe	Kirkcaldy	9
Chris O'Sullivan	Tralee	28	Steve Adams	Chelmondiston	16	Billy Potter		9
Jim Morris	Chester	27	Steve Potts	Gosforth	16	Garry Hutson	Cleethorpes	9
Tony Thomas	Sheringham	26	Craig Bradshaw	Ipswich	15	Karl Fogarty	Dublin	9
Wayne McGilloway	Greenfield	26	Darren Pashby	Driffield	15	Michael McLoughlin	Glasgow	9
Adrian Bordianu	Taverham	25	Gary Wood	Holyhead	15	Phil Arliss	Filey	9
Simon Drayton	Gainsborough	25	Joe Plumstead	Pevensey Bay	15	Simon Dawber	Blackpool	9
Bill Lindfield	Greasby	24	Matt Malia	Rotherham	15	Steve Tucker	Neath	9
Chris Read	Cardiff	24	Mick Tapsell	Folkestone	15	Brett Bartram	Barton	8
Gareth Griffiths	Bar in Furness	24	Till Hall	Bath	15	Chris Jenkins	Bridgend	8
Ben Shepherd	Maryport	23	Troy Francis	Killarney	15	Darren Stevens	Bristol	8
Rory Jenkins	Tonyfrail	22	Andy Crowe	Scarborough	14	Gary Parsons	Bridgend	8
Simon Springell	Watchet	22	Dave Bowering	Cardiff	14	Jordan Hunter	Sunderland	8
Tom Wells	Deal	22	Dave Hutchinson	Blackpool	14	Mark Dewar	Stranraer	8
Darren Newland	Ryde	21	Ian Bowell	Ipswich	14	Mark Rogers	Maidstone	8
Paul Stevens	Worthing	21	Leigh Rogers	Milford Haven	14	Noel Fogarty	Dublin	8
Richard Yates	St Mar Bay	21	Andrew Dugdale	Peel	13	Richard Dorgan	Bristol	8
Rob Marshall	Taunton	21	Ben Richards	Ramsey	13	Steve Bonner	Wallasey	8
Cameron Turner	Felixstowe	20	Chris Clark	Sway	13	Steve Ingleston	Whitby	8
Carl Campion	Swansea	20	Chris Fisher	Aldbrough	13	Steve Williams	Jarrow	8
Dave Delaney	Walker	20	Fiachra Cronin	Tralee Bay	13			
Dave Dai Llewelyn	Barry	20	Mark Cowell	Llantwit Major	13			
Gareth Gardiner	Sunderland	20	Shane (Red Sg) Giles	Deal	13			
Lloyd Summer	Caerphilly	20	Ben Price	Holyhead	12			
Mike Coates	Hull	20	Dai Loder	Cwmbran	12			
Neil Cutler	Gateshead	20	Dave Cave	Holyhead	12			
			Ian Nelson	Grimsby	12			

All anglers who are registered and have scored 8 points or more



The winner of the September competition is Carl Campion from Swansea with 20 points from 1 event.

HOW IT WORKS

■ With £10,000 in tackle prizes the points, based on entries, are awarded to the top three plus section winners and captors of the largest fish caught in each designated Penn match. Penn also awards a prize of a Spinfisher fixed-spool reel to the angler scoring the most points in matches shown in each issue. If there is a tie, the winner will be the angler whose total is from the greatest number of results and is then chosen on merit by the editor. An angler can win only one reel during the year. To win a prize you must be registered with the Penn Sea League – supply your name, address, phone and email. Send fixtures, results and league registration by email to Ian Bowell: ian.bowell@icloud.com




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As you would expect from Daiwa, a new rod that will take some beating at this price. They look and fish like a rod twice the price!

UK built with a choice of 2 lengths 13ft 6" cast 4-7oz and 14ft 2" cast 4-8oz both with great tips that won't bounce around in the tide but as most Daiwa have exceptional bite registration and cast great. Movable reel seats and K style guides (braid friendly) and hybrid design suitable for multi or fix spool reel.

13ft 6" only £229.99 14ft 2" only £239.99

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Ian Golds MK2 Igloo shelter takes 2, best around £139.99 or even bigger MK2 Bigaloo £148.99

Daiwa Beach Shelter new low price £84.99 25mt W x 1.4mt H x 1.5mt D

Dam/Imax Competition Shelter £109.99 20x H110 Wx14cm D

Imax V2 Beach Shelter new low price £69.99 220cm x 150cm x 150cm.

LONG CASTING FIX SPOOLS

DAIWA CROSSCAST SURF 35 SCW 5000 £111.99 QD Quick Drag, Slow Cross Wrap, DIGIGERA II drive gear.

DAIWA CROSSCAST SURF 35 SCW QD TYPE-R £119.99

- Line Capacity 300mt-0.30mm
- Ratio 4.9:1/103cm
- QD Quick Drag
- Ali lo-profile Long Cast Spool
- Bearings: 3+1 -DS4 composite frame & rotor

AKIOS REELS SOME OF THE BEST AT THIS MONEY AROUND -

AKIOS FURY £69.99 1-mono, 1-braid spool, 6+1 Bearings, long cast spools

AKIOS FIRELOOP £89.99 2 spools, 7+1 Stainless Steel Bearings, 7+1 SS/Bearings

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- Corrosion Resistant Instant Anti-Reverse Bearing
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- Long Cast Angled Spool Lip Slow Oscillation for Exceptional line lay

PENN REELS BUILT TO LAST all Penn reels are bomb proof and will stand the riggers of time!

PENN SURFBLASTER II FROM £139.99 7000&8000 - 1-mono, 1-braid spool, rubber braid ring! Slow Oscillation for Exceptional Line Lay, 4.7-1 ratio

PENN SPINFISHER LONG CASTS FROM £149.99 5500LC, 6500LC, 7500LC - tough reel, sealed against the salt, strong all spools

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10000mm breathability and chest pockets, neo cuffs & ankle straps.

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20000mm c3 100% waterproof and breathable fabric.

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Manufactured to the highest standards using a three-layer construction which consists of a 100% nylon outer, a fully waterproof and breathable membrane and a 100% polyester lining. These three layers are bonded together giving the fabric with a 15000mm hydrostatic head and a breathability rating of 5000mpv

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- Two zipped cargo pockets with storm flaps
- Two zipped hand warmer pockets with storm flaps
- Adjustable elasticated waist band to ensure a perfect fit
- Neoprene inner cuffs with adjustable outer cuffs with Velcro fittings



NG Team Smock £149.95

- Fully tape seams to prevent leaking through any exposed seams
- Fitted 3M Scotchlite reflective patches
- Neoprene inner cuffs, elasticated waterproof outer cuffs
- Front pouch pocket with zipped access and storm flap
- Oversized fleece liner storm collar



NG Team Bib & Brace £99.95

- Two cargo pockets with Velcro fastening storm flaps
- 2 fleece lined, zipped hand warmer pockets with storm flaps
- Adjustable elasticated braces with quick release buckles.
- Reinforced seat & knee area.
- Leg gussets with Velcro fastening adjustment straps.

WADERS



DAIWA HYBRID

Best of both worlds with these Hybrids. With thermal protection of neoprene legs that extend into the boot & lightweight breathable fabric upper.

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- 4mm neoprene combined with breathable waterproof fabric
- Tough rubber boot with kick off heel & deep cleated sole
- Webbing waist belt and braces plus a large zipped pocket with micro fleeced lined inner pouch
- All seams taped by hand. 100% quality controlled and numbered

DAIWA HIGH PERFORMANCE NEOPRENE

Super value 4mm waders with neoprene extending into the tough rubber boot for warm feet when its frosty. D ring for scissors etc

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TIP TORNADO GRAPHEX

Tip Tornado Graphex Sport 13' 11" / 125-225g
Tip Tornado Graphex Supermatch 13' 6" / 125-200g
Tip Tornado Graphex Match 13' 6" / 125-175g
Tip Tornado Graphex Supermatch LD 13' / 50-150g
Tip Tornado Graphex Ultralite ST 13' / 50-125g
Eliminator T1200 14' 10" / 125-225g
Eliminator T1200 Salvador Bustos Edition 14' 4" / 125-225g
Eliminator T1000 14' 10" / 125-200g
Eliminator T900-SGT 14' 4" / 125-200g
Eliminator T800-SGT 13' 6" / 100-175g
Eliminator T700-SGT 15' / 100-170g
Excalibur TT 14' 10" / 100-225g
Excalibur J 13' 6" / 100-200g
Excalibur C 13' 10" / 100-200g
Kompressor WR 300 13' 3" / 125-225g
Kompressor SS 13' 10" / 125-200g
Kompressor S 13' 10" / 125-200g
TTR 14' / 125-225g
Tip Tornado Sport 13' 6" / 125-225g

FIREBLADE ELIMINATOR Excalibur

	RRP	Gerry's Price
Heavy - Mixed	£685.00	£599.99
Light Heavy - Smooth	£640.00	£559.99
Mixed - Smooth	£635.00	£554.99
Mixed - Smooth	£610.00	£534.99
Smooth	£585.00	£509.99
Heavy ground	£815.00	£714.99
Heavy ground	£815.00	£714.99
Heavy ground	£795.00	£694.99
Heavy - Mixed	£715.00	£624.99
Mixed - Smooth	£655.00	£574.99
Mixed - Smooth	£685.00	£599.99
Heavy ground	£795.00	£694.99
Mixed ground	£615.00	£539.99
Heavy - Mixed	£615.00	£539.99
Heavy ground	£640.00	£559.99
Heavy ground	£570.00	£499.99
Heavy - Mixed	£565.00	£494.99
Heavy ground	£770.00	£674.99
Heavy - Mixed	£570.00	£499.99

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VASSTEX NOVA 700
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